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The Arch of Triumph



The Arch of Triumph is a grand monument which was unveiled in April 1982 on the 70th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung after it was erected in reflection of the earnest desire of the Korean people to hand down through generations the immortal revolutionary exploits of the President who had returned to Pyongyang in triumph after achieving the cause of national liberation by organizing and leading the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle to victory.

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C O N T E N T S



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Front Cover: Model workers of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill are leading the Mallima speed movement

Photo by Ra Phyong Ryol



Back Cover: The Rimyongsu Cascade

Photo by courtesy of the KCNA

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A torchlight procession of the young vanguard, "Young People, March Forward after the Great Party!" (October 2015).

Spearheading Socialist Economic Construction

THE KOREAN YOUNG people are preparing themselves as reliable successors of the revolution under the care and leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea and under the national and public concern.

Upholding the slogan "Go through fire and water in response to the Party's call!" the young people worked miracles and performed exploits at every historical stage of socialist construction, leaving laudable traces of life.

First Youth Enterprise in the Country

Songnam was a virgin land of soaring rugged mountains, deep valleys and thick forests, which had never been broken for ages.

The land was awakened during the great Chollima upsurge after the war, when President Kim Il Sung set out a plan to develop an enormous coal mine in the primeval forest and entrusted the Korean young people with the task.

True to his plan, in June 1957, hundreds of young people selected from different organizations of the then Democratic Youth League across the country gathered to have a rally at the Moranbong Theatre. The following day, the first batch set off to Songnam for the development project.

With lots of volunteers coming and their vigorous struggle, the land of Songnam became astir. Though the young workers had no machines but such simple implements as spades and pickaxes, and had no experience in coal-mine development, they successfully carried out the tasks of extending power lines, laying a railway and building structures in a matter of a little over a year, and built an industrial road, a house of culture, a hostel and hundreds of dwelling houses to make a wonderful Youth Town in the mountains. Advancing at the speed of Chollima, they overfulfilled their first year's tunnelling plan for 1957 and struck a good vein of coal two years ahead of schedule. This coal mine became the first enterprise named ▸



A section of the Youth Hero Road.

after youth.

Now dozens of years have passed since then, and many mines, coal mines, power stations, streets, parks, railway stations and complexes have gone up across the country with the name of youth.

Youth Hero Road

In September 1998 Chairman Kim Jong Il initiated the plan for construction of the Youth Hero Road and entrusted the young people with the task to complete the project by the 55th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea.

At that time Korea was having a hard time dubbed Arduous March and forced march due to the imperialists' manoeuvres to isolate and stifle the country. Hearing of the Party's plan of constructing a new road when the whole country was going through harsh trials, all the young people were greatly encouraged. Lots of young people of around 20 volunteered to shoulder the construction task. They created the story of "bag fighting" that had never been heard or seen in the history of construction. They walked and even ran with bags full of earth and stone weighing 30~40 kg each on their shoulders and backs. The distance each of them covered a day in this way was 32km~36km and even 42km at the maximum.

Countless groups of young people with bags on ran and ran competitively flying the red flag at the van. Understanding that the road project was not a simple construction but a life-and-death struggle against the imperialists who were trying to stifle their socialist system, the young people made their way heroically through any difficulties and trials.

On October 12, 2000, a decree of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK which declared the Pyongyang-Nampho motorway as Youth Hero Road was carried in the front page of the Korean newspaper *Rodong Sinmun*.

Legendary Tale of Heroic Youth

Heroic Youth, carved magnificently in the middle of the dam of Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station No. 1, is credited to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

In April 2015 the Supreme Leader visited the construction site of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station ploughing his way up and down rugged mountains and hills in the north. Pointing to the towering dam of Power Station No. 1 across the frozen stream of Sodu, he called on the members of the youth shock brigade to build an eternal treasure of the country in the land of Paektu by carrying forward the Korean young people's laudable tradition of working devotedly for the prosperity of the socialist country and thus fully implement the behest of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

True to his call, lots of young people volunteered to work for the construction of the power station, and achieved amazing things in no more than 120 days. Fighting a fierce battle day and night, the members of the youth shock brigade carried out the gigantic



construction project—the work amount of which was larger than what had been done over the earlier ten years—in a matter of a little over four months.

In September that year the Supreme Leader provided on-the-spot guidance to the power station again, which was nearing completion. Praising highly that they had completed the dam project of Power Station No. 1 just before the Youth Day (August 28) and created a new miracle in the land of Paektu, he said that the legendary tale could only be written by the Korean youth who were educated and trained by the Workers' Party of Korea. Then he named the power plant "Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station."

The next month, there was held the inauguration ceremony of the power station significantly marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the WPK.

In his speech at the Ninth Congress of Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un said that his country, now developing by leaps and bounds, was calling on young people to strive for the building of a powerful socialist country. The vibrant sites where the Mallima speed is being created in a race against time, are theatres of activity for the hot-blooded young people, he said.

Today the Korean young people are achieving new miraculous and innovative successes upholding the self-development-first banner on all fronts for building a powerful socialist country and displaying their valiant offensive spirit and youthful courage.

Pang Mi Hye



The dam of Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station No. 1 is a monument to the struggle of the youth shock brigade.



Great Trust and Warm Affection

Regarding Young People as Masters of the Future

ONE DAY IN NOVEMBER 1948, President Kim Il Sung met delegates who took part in the 3rd Congress of the Democratic Youth League of North Korea. Acquainting himself with the good deeds done by the exemplary members of the Democratic Youth League for the country and the people, he highly praised them for their feats. Turning his affectionate gaze to the delegates who were deeply moved, the President said that they were the masters of the future Korea and that all the young people should devote themselves to the building of the country.

He went on to say that during the anti-Japanese armed struggle (April 1932–August 1945), too, the young people had taken the lead in battles, that a strong nation needed strong youth as the masters of the future, and that he had faith in the Korean youth of liberated Korea.

That day all the delegates made up their minds to be reliable masters in the building of a new country.

The Great Man's Outlook on Youth

One day in June 1963, Chairman Kim Jong Il had a talk with an official who was in charge of youth work. The official asked the Chairman to tell him his outlook on youth. The Chairman said that the problem of youth was both an immediate and a long-range problem of the Korean revolution and that the previous classics had not treated the problem of youth as an independent part of the problem of revolutionary forces but only regarded it as a subject of the awakened young intellectuals acting as intermediary between the revolution and the masses.

Saying that President Kim Il Sung was the first person in history to consider the youth problem from a new angle and set up young people as a part of the driving forces of the revolution, he explained cogently the glorious course of the Juche-oriented youth movement of Korea. Precisely the young people represent the future, he stressed. Without them there can be no future. The future of the country and the destiny of the revolution depend on how they are prepared. The youth problem should be solved in a far-sighted way not merely as an immediate task of the revolution and construction, but as a long-range project for tomorrow. He went on further to say that the youth should be positively put forward and that no expense should be spared as far as their welfare is concerned. To put it briefly, support and love them to the utmost! This, he said, was the rightest attitude and position to have for the young people. This was the lifelong opinion and lofty intention of the Chairman about the young people who would carry forward the revolution from generation to generation.

With His Trust, They Will Lift the Earth!

One day in April last year, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station No. 3 which was just completed. That day an official of youth work proudly told him on behalf of the young builders that they worked a world-startling legendary tale of heroic youth with the confidence that they would lift the earth on the strength of the Supreme Leader's trust in them. Attentively listening to him who represented not only the young builders of Paektu but also millions of youth all over the country, he said that if the young people would lift the earth, he would keep turning it round. His words breathing with his idea of prizing the young people turned all the hearts of the officials throbbing like the blue water of the Sodu river.

Indeed, it was an unforgettable day when strong emotions flowed between the Supreme Leader who would lead the world by relying on the inexhaustible strength of young people and the Korean youth who worked a legendary tale of heroic youth with the confidence that they would lift the earth on the strength of his trust in them.

Sim Chol Yong

Keep Your Feet Firmly Planted on This Land and Look Out over the World

THE NATURAL SCIENCE Research Centre at Kim Il Sung University has many promising young scientists who are displaying their high abilities with a global view. Some time ago I had a chance to meet them.

Conquering the Unknown World

Researcher Jong Un Gi, 28, was good at his studies in his childhood. In particular he was very interested in physics. After graduating from secondary school, he was enrolled at the Faculty of Physics, Kim Il Sung University as he had wished. This brought an immense happiness to him.

As he had been fond of conceiving and making things from his secondary school days, he studied hard with unusual enthusiasm like a thirsty person looks for water. After he finished the university course, he went on to a postgraduate school as he was eager to learn more. His spirit of inquiry was so strong that his knowledge got consolidated and his view wider day by day.

As a postgraduate student he published a paper on phase change between diamond and graphite in a well-known Dutch magazine. It was his debut in the global physical field.

Working as a researcher at the Natural Science Research Centre, he soon began to distinguish himself. Over the last year he published six papers in different magazines of the world including a physics review magazine of the American Physics Society. He says, "The new 3G solar cell is now in the basic theoretical and experimental stage around the world. It needs solution of lots of problems. I've presented a paper on inherent stability of this solar cell material and gave basic theoretical proof on what kind of element is good for increasing the inherent stability. Now I'm studying about the inherent stability of certain materials that changes according to light, humidity and temperature."



Jong Un Gi.

He is fluent in three languages— English, Chinese and Japanese. He sometimes gives lectures to students. Giving lectures is indispensable to him because it helps him to find out new problems and make deeper studies of them. The university council has designated him as promising scientist of the highest ability in his 20s.

Days after he got married in April this year, he was provided with a new flat on the 48th floor of a 70-storeyed skyscraper in the newly erected Ryomyong Street, which is the highest apartment building in Korea. Whenever entering his new flat of a hundred and tens of square metres, he tells himself, "I'll try harder to be an explorer of an unknown world."



Ri Kyong Jun.

With His Feet Planted on Reality

Ri Kyong Jun, a researcher, was born in a scholar's family. His father is a professor and a doctor at the Faculty of Physics, Kim Il Sung University and his mother was a journalist. He became a physicist thanks to the encouragement and help from his mother. His mother loved and respected her husband and asked her son to be a physicist like his father.

Listening to his father's lectures during his university days, Kyong Jun nourished a dream of doing his own research, and he started a joint research with his father after he became a postgraduate student.

Seeking their high aim of practical introduction, they manufactured a 3D printer for the first time in the country. His father took charge of development of the hardware while Kyong Jun looked after programs. The veteran professor and the young scientist helped each other to accomplish the research work as soon as possible. As the new printer makes sure to save time, expenses and labour in making complicated parts of the machine, it was keenly needed in the manufacturing field.

"In the course of research work, my ability has improved. Indeed, it was a course of cultivating my self-confidence to make whatever I want. In the future, too, I'll solve urgent problems that the reality needs," Kyong Jun says. He is regarded as a competent young scientist in the university. Still single, he says, "I'd like to marry a girl who will be able to push and encourage me in the research work as my mother did."

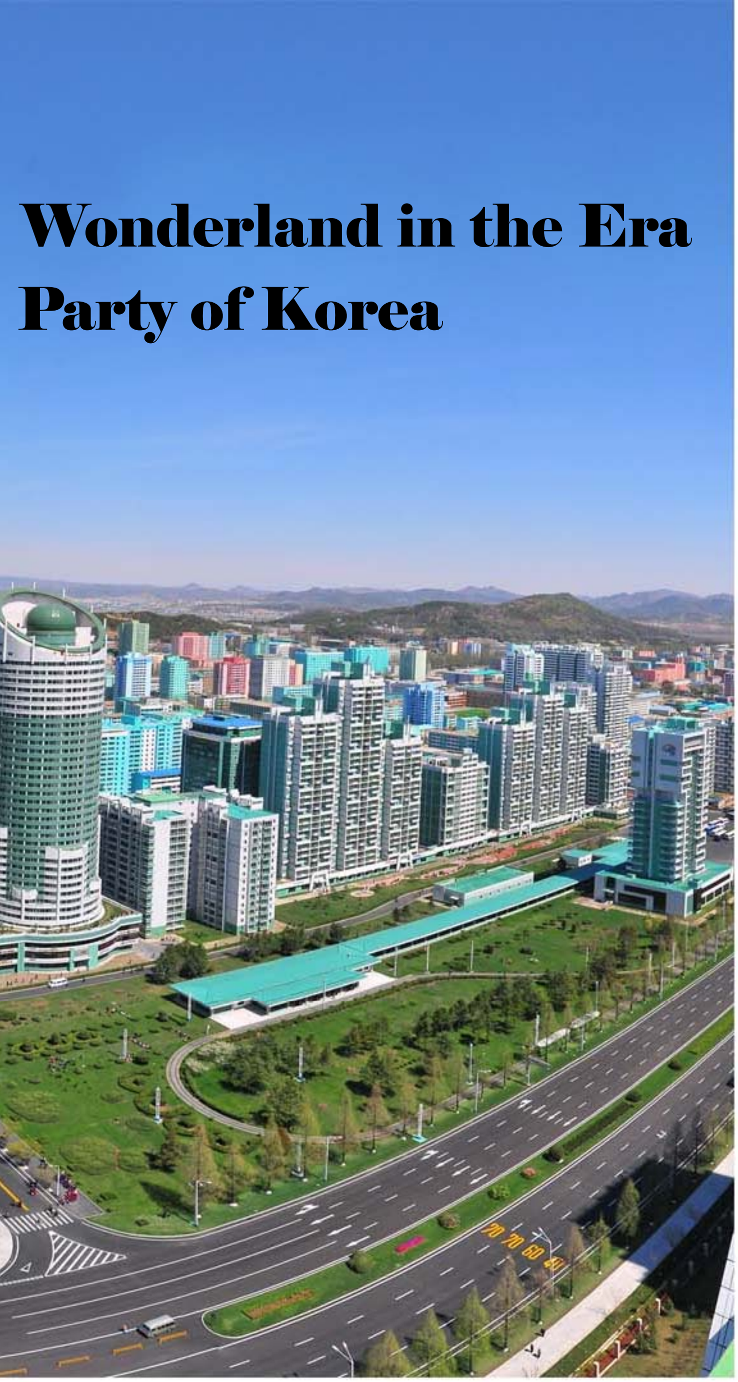
Rim Sang Jun

Ryomyong Street,
of the Workers'





Wonderland in the Era
Party of Korea















"I Feel Just As If I Were in a Dream"



SOME TIME AGO I VISITED THE NEWLY erected Ryomyong Street. Magnificent blocks of skyscrapers and many-storeyed buildings decorated with green- and white-coloured tiles, modern public and service buildings—it is really a model of a green and energy-saving street.

I could see a 70-storeyed skyscraper easily. Across the wide, straight boulevard I got to the apartment block. I found the bottom floors furnished with service facilities for local inhabitants. I looked up, but I could hardly judge the height of the building at all because I felt dizzy. I went up to the sixth floor, where I could see Flat No. 3 that had been visited by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un. As soon as I pushed the doorbell, an elderly man came out. Told of the purpose of my visit, he welcomed me in, introducing himself, "I am the master of the flat. My name is Ma Song Su. Nice to meet you." He is a teacher at the College of Forest Science, Kim Il Sung University. The professor and doctor had already succeeded in the research into flax-bean nutrition capsule by using active natural elements extracted from the useful plants like flax and beans and foodstuffs, thus making a great contribution to improvement of the people's health. He received a certificate of invention and a DPRK patent at the 13th national invention and new technology exhibition for his flax-bean nutrition capsule, a functional health food, and later a WIPO award and a gold medal. As the nutrition capsule has a special virtue for treatment of mastopathy, it is now very popular with the women. He was designated as one of the ten DPRK scientists of the year 2014.

When I told him that he must be very glad to move into a new flat, Ma said, "Words fail me to express my thanks for this big and excellent flat. I've got it for free. I feel just as if I were in a dream." Then he showed me round the rooms such as a couple's room, a children's room and a room for elderly parents.

The flat is equipped with solar panels for lighting and with a solar heating technique and a geothermal heating system to keep the room temperature at over 20℃, and the householders can control the temperature by themselves.

I dropped in at the kitchen, where Sin Son Hui, Ma's wife, said with a smile, "I am content with the arrangement of the kitchen. In March last our respected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the construction site of Ryomyong Street and dropped in at this flat to acquaint himself with the actual structures of the rooms. Looking round the kitchen, he said with a parental mind that the kitchen should be set in a sunny place so that the inhabitants could have a meal enjoying the outside scenery."

Listening to her, I could feel the careful concern that is permeating every nook and corner of the flat, even in the furniture and the door-knob looking like a trimmed gem.

Ma said to me, "When I received the flat licence, I keenly felt that our family was a blessed one, and that the extent of our happiness should be that of our workload that we have to do to repay for the care." And he made up his mind to bring about innovations in his instruction true to the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea on the forest resources of the country.

Hearing him, I was convinced that the day will soon come when the dawn of a completely civilized life will begin in Korea, as the name of the street *Ryomyong* (dawn of a new day) denotes.

Sim Chol Yong

Hundred Against Million



A statue of President Kim Il Sung on the shore of Lake Samji.

WHEN KIM IL SUNG declared an armed struggle against the Japanese imperialist aggressors, his nation's power was fairly trifling. It was useless to mention Korea's military capabilities. At the time the imperialist Japan, occupying Korea in a violent way, was a newly emerging military power which was on its straight road to expansion. It was a formidable aggressor armed to the teeth with modern weapons and combat equipment.

The imperialists called Kim Il Sung's Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army (AJPGA) "a drop in the ocean." In its initial days the AJPGA had no more than 100 fighters in its ranks. It, however, achieved the historic victory of national liberation against the one-million-strong Japanese Kwantung Army, elite military forces armed with modern weapons like planes and tanks.

What is the secret?

In the summer of 1936 Wan Shun, a commanding officer of the Chinese national salvation army, had a talk with Commander Kim Il Sung of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. Congratulating Kim Il Sung on his victories in different battles, Wan said that famous Chinese generals had defeated their enemy using their resources since the periods of Chunqiu and Warring States, and that the Japanese had fought relying on their warlike spirit. Then he asked the Commander what kinds of tactics he was employing to achieve victory in every battle. The Korean leader replied that the art of war was important but that the soldiers' mental state was even more vital.

From the early days of the armed struggle Kim Il Sung put primary efforts into training his soldiers as those with a sturdy patriotic faith and an adamant revolutionary will and as passionate fighters afire with optimism for the future. The Korean People's Revolutionary Army soldiers had to deal with arduous battles and marches day after day and overcome all manner of sufferings from cold and hunger, but they held cheerful recreation parties of dancing and singing by campfires at night. They surmounted all the difficulties and trials cheerfully, and achieved a victory in every battle by fighting with a towering determination to annihilate the enemy while singing revolutionary songs.

The KPRA was a collective of people who approached adversi- ▸

ties with cheer and turned misfortune into blessing, people who believed that there is always a hope as long as there is a life. Choe Hui Suk, a woman fighter of the KPRA, was an example. One day in 1943 she, along with her small group, encountered the enemy on the way to the headquarters to deliver reconnaissance information. In the battle she was arrested badly wounded. However, she did not surrender to all conciliatory tricks and brutal tortures and challenged the enemy remaining true to her revolutionary principles to the last moment of her life. She kept the conviction that the Korean revolution would surely emerge victorious as it was led by Kim Il Sung. Even though the enemy gouged out her eyes she shouted out, "I can still see victory in the revolution!" at the execution site.

Another fighter remained true to his revolutionary principles by cutting his tongue himself while suffering all tortures by the enemy. Yet another fighter cut his rotten foot himself with a tin saw singing a revolutionary song.

Kim Il Sung later recollected that the KPRA was a body of optimistic people, the like of which had never been known in all history, Eastern and Western, and that probably [no army] had been as vivacious and full of revolutionary optimism and ardour for a great future as the KPRA was.

When the Commander decided guerrilla warfare he saw flexible application of constantly-varying tactics in guerrilla warfare, which were different from regular warfare, as the essential guarantee of victory. During the guerrilla struggle he standardized and published all principles and methods of guerrilla activities and Juche-oriented tactics of fighting. Typical of them were ***Guerrilla Actions*** and ***Guerrilla Manual***. He led his soldiers wisely to apply them smartly into battles. He flexibly applied various and ever-changing guerrilla operations and tactics in big and small battles, and dealt a fatal blow to the enemy, who were proud of their military superiority, putting them on the defensive. During the arduous guerrilla struggle which was a succession of battles day and night, there were invented and applied varieties of adroit and consummate guerrilla tactics including tactics of allurement and ambush, surprise attack, blow to the west while pretending to be dashing to the east, and 400 kilometres advance at a bound.

"As fish cannot live without water, so guerrillas cannot live without the people"—this, formulated by the Commander, was the mode of existence and a principle of activity for the anti-Japanese guerrilla army.

Under the wise leadership of the Commander the guerrilla army wrote a new history of army-civilian relations with an unprecedented philosophy of *fish and water*. When guerrillas violated mass rules he would tell them: You should love the people more ardently. If we are rude to the people, they will turn their backs on us. Nothing is more horrible than abandonment by the people. The greatest tragedy for a revolutionary is to forfeit the love of people.

Thus, all officers and soldiers of the army found their value of existence in people, and regarded loving the people and being supported by the people as their life-or-death question before their victory or loss in battles. Responding to the army's lofty spirit of loving the people, the people displayed a high degree of spirit of supporting the army without being fooled by any tricks of the enemy. From the mid-1930s the Japanese imperialists enforced a vicious policy of internment villages for the purpose of "separating the people from the bandits." But they could not check the flow of the popular sympathy with the revolutionary army. Despite the high wall of the "internment villages," the people sent whatever they wanted to the guerrilla army and did whatever they wanted for the army. Kim Il Sung recollected with deep emotion: The enemy called us isolated beings, yet here we were, on a sea of people whose devoted love supported us.

Upholding the banner "Let us carry out the Korean revolution by our own efforts!" the Commander led the guerrillas to solve all problems arising in the guerrilla struggle by their own efforts. Under the banner of self-reliance, the guerrillas repaired varieties of weapons in arsenals in the jungle with their own resources, and even produced "Yongil bombs" and wooden cannons. In those days there appeared a story that 600 military uniforms were produced using a sewing machine needle made with a rasp. In the history of the revolutionary struggle for national liberation self-reliance opened for the first time a new era of struggle when everything was created from scratch. It became an important spiritual factor in accomplishing the great cause of the victorious anti-Japanese revolution.

Kim Il Sung took up arms and achieved the historic cause of national liberation through protracted bloody guerrilla warfare. He was truly the leader and organizer of the victorious anti-Japanese armed struggle.

Ri Jong Nam

Upholding the Banner of Songun

CHAIRMAN KIM JONG IL left behind a lot of anecdotes about his revolutionary life which will be etched in the annals of Songun-based leadership. Some of them go as follows:

First Step

Kim Jong Il took his first step for Songun-based revolutionary leadership by inspecting on August 25, 1960 the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division of the Korean People's Army. The unit was famous because when the Fatherland Liberation War started in June 1950, it advanced southward swiftly to be the first to dash into Seoul and performed brilliant feats in battles of Suwon, Taejon and Rakdong River.

Looking round the unit, the leader highly evaluated its feats and put forth important tasks and ways to carry out its mission. When he saw at its soldiers' hall the slogan *Let us defend with our very lives the Party Central Committee headed by the respected Comrade Kim Il Sung!* he said that the slogan was good, as it truthfully reflected the unshakable faith of the Korean people and the KPA personnel and the fundamental requirement to absolutely trust and follow Kim Il Sung and fight self-sacrificingly for the Party and leader even at the cost of their lives. He remarked that through the slogan he could see the unit conducting the political work efficiently, and he praised the KPA as the best.

Then he emphasized that to defend the Party and the leader resolutely is the essential mission and the hardcore of the glorious tradition of struggle of the KPA, and that the KPA would have to win the final victory of the Korean revolution upholding the slogan.

He also told accompanying officers and other servicemen about important roles of tanks in modern warfare. Saying that the 105th Tank Division was an accomplished unit that had executed glorious exploits during the Fatherland Liberation War, he encouraged them by saying that if the US imperialist aggressors started another reckless war, the tankmen of the unit should wipe out the enemy from the Korean land completely as the guard tankmen had done during the Fatherland Liberation War. He made a firm determination to lead the revolution and construction by relying on the KPA.

August 25, 1960 was really a historic day representing a milestone in the history of building up the Korean revolutionary armed forces along with April 25, the founding anniversary of the KPA.

Extraordinary Strategy

It was when the US armed spy ship *Pueblo* intruded Korea. Kim Jong Il was reported by a KPA commanding officer that the armed spy ship was intruding the waters off Wonsan. He immediately advanced an operational plan to capture the ship through joint operations of guard warships and torpedo boats.

On January 23, 1968 a pursuit plane corps of the KPA distracted the enemy's attention to strike terror into them by looping over the ship. Availing itself of the opportunity, a KPA torpedo boat flotilla dashed towards the ship in order to overawe them. At the same time a KPA submarine chaser approached the ship, containing the desperate fire of the enemy, while a search team jumped onto the spy ship to capture the crew and ship completely.

To cope with the follow-up touch-and-go situation, Kim Jong Il instructed relevant KPA officers to keep a closer watch in the sea and air and smash the enemy warships and aircraft if they intruded the Korean territorial waters and air even an inch. Being daunted by his courage, self-confidence and extraordinary strategy, the US imperialists found no other alternative than to withdraw all their warships including nuclear-powered aircraft carriers from the East and South seas of Korea and some forces and warplanes from frontline posts. Finally they signed a written apology at ▸

Panmunjom on December 23, 1968.

The US, instead of learning a lesson from the *Pueblo* incident, committed a hostile act against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by mobilizing large spy plane EC-121, when Kim Jong Il gave an order to shoot down the plane and demonstrate to the world that the DPRK means it when it warns that it will answer the American "retaliation" with retaliation and an all-out war with an all-out war. Thus, on April 15, 1969 the spy plane was shot down with all its crew of some 30 spies by KPA fighter planes.

In August 1969 the US military plane OH-23G intruded the sky over Kumchon-ri, Korea, only to be shot down as well.

Matchless Courage

The DPRK was in focus in the world political arena after the Koreans suffered their greatest loss in their history, the demise of President Kim Il Sung. The world was keenly concerned about the future policy of the country. At this juncture Kim Jong Il introduced the political mode of Songun in all fields by building on the valuable experience he had gained over the long years of administering the Songun-based revolutionary leadership, or Songun politics.

On January 1, 1995 Kim Jong Il inspected the Tabaksol Company, which was a historic milestone in realizing Songun politics on a fuller, higher level. Every time he inspected KPA units, he told officers that during the Fatherland Liberation War the KPA combatants had fought bravely to the last drop of their blood to carry out the order of Kim Il Sung. He urged them not to allow the enemy to touch even a tree or a blade of grass of Korea or to intrude 0.001mm of the Korean territory which the KPA combatants had defended at the cost of their blood.

In 1998 the US imperialists were going berserk again attempting to start a war against the DPRK while labelling the Korean artificial satellite launched in the year as a ballistic missile and arguing about the "suspicious underground nuclear facility" of the DPRK. At that time they put containment operations against the DPRK into practice while threatening the country with "revenge" for their defeat in the Korean war and releasing contents of "Operations Plan 5027," a plan of a second Korean war, in a third country's publication.

The confrontation between the DPRK and the US that had been heated around the launch of the Korean satellite returned to the brink of war. Who would bend to the other's will? Korea was in the focus of the world attention. In November 1998 Kim Jong Il, just before seeing a performance of a KPA unit's artistic motivational group, told KPA commanding officers that the US imperialists seemed to be advertising their war plan all across the world to depress the Koreans' spirit. He instructed them to expose the aggressive moves by issuing a statement of the KPA General Staff spokesman. On December 2, 1998 a statement was released which declared that the Korean revolutionary forces would answer the challenge of the US with an annihilating blow without any mercy. The announcement shook the world. Thereupon, the US imperialists became dumb with consternation while the Japanese reactionaries and south Korean bellicose elements became intent on straightening out the situation with their hearts in their mouths.

Later according to a proposal of the US, the DPRK-US talks took place again in New York from February 17 to March 16, 1999, which had been in deadlock. The US that had used to argue for "military measures" on the pretext of "suspicious underground nuclear facility" before the statement of the KPA General Staff spokesman released, did not dare to come up with such a measure. Thus, the US had no other choice but to agree on positive proposal of the DPRK to replace the US's forcible inspection with a visit to the DPRK on the latter's invitation on condition that the US paid a certain fee for the visit. In May 1999, after the talks finished, the US visited Kumchang-ri to see the local underground structure, which it had advertised as an underground nuclear facility, only after it brought Korea hundreds of thousands of tons of grains for the fee. Thus, the matter of the "suspicious underground nuclear facility" ended up in victory of the DPRK.

Sim Chol Yong

In Support of War for Liberation of Northeast China (6)

Effective Policy to Overcome the Crisis

FROM THE SPRING OF 1946 Northeast China was teetering on the brink of total showdown between the Communists and the Kuomintang forces.

In mid-August 1945 the Communist Party of China decided to send a 100 000-strong force to Northeast China in order to take control of the region.

Early in November 1945 the military forces of Chiang Kaishek's Kuomintang swarmed to Dandong, but Xiao Hua could not find any proper solution to deal with the difficult situation. As his forces were to fight singlehandedly against the Kuomintang army with their connection cut from the Yanan Base, the commanding officers had withdrawn their family members, who, however, had been raided by the Kuomintang troops halfway and were being taken to the Dunhua area. At the critical moment when nobody could tell what would become of his unit and when, Xiao Hua, commander of the Liaodong Military District, requested Kim Il Sung, the leader of the new Korea, for help.

Responding to his request, Kim Il Sung paid a visit to the Military District command in Dandong across the Amnok River on the night of November 29, Juche 34 (1945), risking his life. He had a better understanding of the situation in Northeast China than the Chinese from China proper. Pointing to secluded villages, mountains and rivers on the map, he asked about the distribution and manoeuvres of the Chinese Communist forces, and those of the enemy. Then he made an analysis of the essential features of the prevailing situation in the northeast, the prospect of the situation and the factors of the inevitable victory of the Chinese Communists and the people before advancing a clear and successful strategy and tactics to overcome the serious crisis. Concluding his speech, he told the Chinese to take refuge in Korea's Mt. Paektu when they found themselves unable to fight any longer, stressing that the mountain area would serve as a reliable shelter for them.

Later, Kim Il Sung made sure that all trains, automobiles and vessels were mobilized for the manoeuvre of the Eight Route Army of the Chinese Communists and that a huge amount of weapons, ammunitions, food, medical supplies and other military materials were provided to the Chinese Communists. As he had promised to Xiao Hua, he ordered the Korean unit under the control of Pak Rak Gwon, a commanding officer of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, to rescue the families of the staff of Xiao Hua's Command from the Kuomintang on their way to Dunhua.

Kim Il Sung also kept the promise he made with Xiao Hua earlier in November about the admission of the wounded and other patients and some civilian employees of Xiao Hua's unit into the Korean territory. He opened the routes in Sinuiju, Chongsu, Junggang and other places in Korea for the Chinese Communist military personnel and civilians to enter safe places in the northern region for full recovery before return to the battlefield.

On March 28, Juche 35 (1946), Kim Il Sung went to Namyang, a town on the Tuman River in the northern borderline area of Korea, which was a long way from Pyongyang. Around the time Chiang Kaishek's forces were advancing uninterruptedly by air, land and sea, armed with American weapons and supported by the Americans. They were attempting to vanquish the Communist Party, the people's government and the people's armed units at a stroke. The Communist forces were incomparably inferior to the enemy in terms of strength, and their military equipment was deplorably backward. Worse still, they had failed to build enough defence positions to repulse the enemy's marauds, because they had not thought the Kuomintang army would swarm to the northeast so fast with so many troops. Chiang Kaishek knew that the Communist army was not ready yet to fight in the region, and hurriedly hurled tremendous forces there to avail themselves of the opportunity to take control.

Zhou Baozhong, vice general commander of the Chinese Northeast Democratic Allied Army and concurrently commander of the Jilin-Liaoning Military District, was racking his brain how to deal with the developments. Luckily, Kim Il Sung called to Namyang Kang Kon and Pak Rak Gwon who had been working in Northeast China in accordance with his instruction to help the Chinese revolution. He was going to understand the work of the Korean commanding officers and give them instructions to cope with the rapidly changing situation. Zhou Baozhong decided to travel to Namyang together with Kang and Pak immediately. ▸

Kim Il Sung's trip to Namyang, which is located across from Tumen in Northeast China, was decided for the urgency of the meeting with the Korean commanding officers to grasp the local situation.

Having listened to the report the leader fell into deep thought for a while. Then he produced strategic and practical policies for the Communists to defend the Yanbian region and other liberated areas in the northeast from the enemy attacks and switch over from the defensive to the offensive. The policies were based on detailed analysis of the geographical features of the northeastern region, the relations of force between the enemy and the Communist forces and possible future circumstances. They instilled great courage and confidence in victory in the mind of Kang Kon, Pak Rak Gwon and Zhou Baozhong.

As was instructed by Kim Il Sung, defence works were pushed ahead in Haerbaling, Laoyeling and areas north and southwest of the Songhua River.

Based on the strong defence positions, the Communist army fought unyielding defence battles, and, in the meantime, launched a hundred and scores of offensives against the Kuomintang troops. In the course of this the enemy lost their control of the Jilin, Dunhua and Hudian lines and fell into confusion. Since their strength dwindled a lot, they found themselves completely surrounded.

The war for liberation of the northeastern region entered a new phase. The Linjiang defence operations that were carried out from mid-December 1946 to early April 1947 were typical of the defence and counterattack battles against the repeated offensives of the Kuomintang army who were attempting to take the south Manchurian areas from the Communists. During the battles the Communist forces attacked the enemy three times across from the Songhua River and defended Linjiang from the four enemy offensives.

The battle to liberate Changchun was joined by more than 20 000-strong Korean units including Pak Rak Gwon-led First Regiment and Artillery Regiment under the control of the Jidong Branch Military District command, along with units of the Northeast Democratic Allied Army. The battle started on April 14, 1946.

On the first day of the battle the Communists annihilated the enemy stationed in suburban Changchun. The general offensive against the metropolis was launched at six the next morning.

Pak Rak Gwon's regiment had a fierce combat to destroy the enemy embattled in the Law College and the College of Technology. By 9 pm the office building of the central training institute of the "Concord Society," which the enemy had declared as impregnable, and the residential district of the Manzhou Mine fell into the hand of Pak's regiment, and the "Iron Unit" was also vanquished.

When Pak's regiment and Northeast Democratic Allied Army units took a third of the city by three days' attack, the enemy proposed negotiation in an attempt to make time for completing their defence facilities and check the advance of the Communist forces. Rejecting the proposal, Pak demanded unconditional surrender. The enemy rejected the demand, so the battle resumed.

Pak's regiment, supported by Choe Kwang's unit that was containing the enemy reinforcements, continued to expand their successful attack into the centre of the city. Then they took the Central Bank offices where the enemy headquarters were based, and other major institutions, making a breakthrough for the victory in the battle to liberate Changchun.

From January 25, 1946, Pak's regiment participated in the campaign to get rid of bandits. They waged battles at Sandaowan, Dahuanggou, Miaoling, Tianqiaoling, Luotuoshan, Amidaling and other places, wiping out bandit groups headed by Ma Yifeng, Li Wuqing and Liu Tuanzhang. Now the bandits were struck with terror even at the word of the "Korean regiment."

Thanks to the brave fight of the Korean-Chinese combined units Changchun whose garrison commander had been Chiang Jingguo, son of Chiang Kaishek, fell into the Communist hand five days after the general offensive began. More than 2 500 enemy troops were killed or wounded and 14 000 captured.

The liberation of Changchun made an opening for the retreat of the besieged Chinese Communist army on the Siping line, which brought about the prospect for victory in the war for liberation of Northeast China.

Chiang Kaishek's army attached great importance to the Huinan County town in South Manchuria. When Meihekou stood for eastern fortress in defending Shenyang where Kuomintang's Northeastern Combined Army Corps command was based, the Huinan County town meant the outpost in defending Meihekou. In late February 1947 Ri Hong Gwang's detachment active in South Manchuria annihilated small Kuomintang units around the town and then encircled the town and cut the road leading to Chaoyangzhen. Now the enemy in the town was no better than a rat in the jar.

The battle of the Huinan County town was the first offensive battle the Northeast Democratic Allied Army waged switching from the defensive to the offensive operations, and with this victorious battle the Communist forces set out on the road of victory after victory. ❑

Tradition Continues



Kim Chon Su (*centre*)**, manager of the Dyeing Division, has trained lots of model workers.**

IT IS A TRADITION OF the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill for scores of years to overfulfil the annual production plan through a mass campaign. During the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950–July 1953), the factory produced the first weaver hero of the country who was the forerunner of the multi-loom tending movement. During the postwar days, lots of weavers, emulating Labour Hero Kim Pong Rye who was a multi-spindle tender, overfulfilled their two- or three-year plans and thus became Labour Heroes. And some of them were elected deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly. Among them was a weaver who had been honoured to take part in the 2nd National Meeting of the Vanguard Workers in the Chollima Workteam Movement and talk about her experience in training all her workteam members as innovative workers.

Kim Chon Su, leader of the Dyeing Division, says, "Recently a mass campaign is going on briskly among the employees of my factory continuing the tradition, and now many of them have become innovative workers."

Last year all units of the factory launched extensive socialist competitions by machines, workteams and workshops, with noticeboards titled *Are You on Mallima?* set up at each workplace.

Han Myong Hui, a weaver at the Silk Weaving Division, who had accomplished her assignment without fail for several years, handled as many as 12 machines by herself, thus overfulfilling her yearly task once again. Emulating Han, young weavers who had begun to work there a couple of years before endeavoured with a high aim to fulfil their tasks, and the newcomers also made strenuous efforts. This was not merely a competition for a win. It is a single mind of all model workers and skilled workers of the factory to arouse all their colleagues to innovation.

Ri Myong Sun, a weaver at Weaving Workshop No. 1 of the Weaving Division, voluntarily moved to a weak workteam to help new workers improve their skills and exerted herself. Spinners tried to hand over machines without an empty spindle to the next shift, and the mechanics ensured full operation and full capacity of the machinery and equipment for weavers and spinners' remarkable achievements in production. As a result, the factory produced hundreds of inno- ▸

Han Myong Hui, a weaver.



O Sol Gyong, a spinner.



vative workers who accomplished their tasks of the annual national economic plan for last year.

This year, too, the workers of the factory have conducted a mass innovation campaign under the slogan *For the Next Shift!* According to Pang Chol Jun, leader of Workteam No. 1 of Spinning Workshop No. 2 of the Spinning Division, all his employees are working hard with a single mind to produce more high-quality cloth for the people. Worker Ryu Yong Suk fulfilled her quota of the national economic plan for the first half of this year in the run-up to the Day of the Sun (the birthday of President Kim Il Sung, April 15). She fulfilled her yearly assignment 250 percent every year.

Though Yang Kum Ju, who has been working as a spinner for about 20 years since her girlhood, has two children, she has trained four novices as skilful multi-loom operators and established a regular system of checking machines for half an hour for the next shift, which has been adopted by all other workers of her workteam.

Having conducted a multi-spindle, multi-loom tending campaign for eight years, Choe Kum Hyang fulfilled her yearly tasks every year, taking good care of young operators with poor results to train them as innovative workers.

“The workers of my factory are trying hard to be in the vanguard of the effort to build a socialist economic power by Mallima like our predecessors built socialism by Chollima. They say the tradition of my factory is constantly carried on,” says Mun Kang Sun, a weaver of a younger generation, who is a Labour Hero and a deputy to the Supreme People’s Assembly.

The workers are making an innovation in the production of cloth for the people’s dresses and children’s bags, invariably following the tradition of mass campaign.

Rim Hye Gyong



Weaver Mun Kang Sun (*centre*)**, a deputy to the Supreme People’s Assembly and Labour Hero.**

For Modernization of Production Process

IN RECENT YEARS THE Phyongwon Agricultural Chemicals Factory is increasing the production of agricultural chemicals by putting the production process on a modern basis. In the past the factory carried out production by means of old equipment including crushers and mixers. The developing reality required that the production process be modernized as quickly as possible. After a collective discussion the factory decided to remove the old equipment and establish new production processes one by one by themselves.

First of all, they developed a precision register to ensure high accuracy by introducing a new measuring equation. This made it possible to turn the previous discontinuous process, by which agricultural chemicals were carried in vessels or measured before being put into a mixer, into a continuous conveyer system of production. Additionally, they developed modern equipment including a high-pressure suspension-style rolling crusher, an air crusher, a conical twin-screw mixer and an automatic measuring and packaging machine, and thus established a CNC-based continuous automatic production process from feeding of raw materials to packaging of the product. As a result, the accuracy and speed of measuring and the product’s quality have improved a lot. Then machines for processing powder chemicals were integrated air-tight, and a precision measuring and control device was newly introduced, thus ensuring a clean environment without harmful dust.

Recently, nicotine-mineral oil emulsion, one of vegetable pesticides, from the factory is favourably commented upon for the unique method of its production and its unique form. It is recognized as non-poisonous and environment-friendly pesticide, for it ensures extermination of vermins at 95 percent and causes no poisoning or environmental pollution.

Sim Chol Jun

Keeping the Flower of Revolution in Bloom

RECENTLY THE MANAGers and workers of the Rangnang Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory have made innovations in the plastic goods production. In its initial days after it was established in October 1970, the factory produced some simple ironware with some machines like a bench lathe and a drilling machine. But it is now mass-producing various kinds of plastic things including foodstuff wrappers and plastic containers of various sizes, food boxes and tumblers for a single use and plastic pipes for different usages.

Kang Nam Ik, general manager of the factory, says, "When my factory was inaugurated, our country fixed the working hours appropriately for the disabled soldiers' health condition. It also sees to it that we can use the most of the profits we have to pay to the state as well as the transaction tax just as the fund for our own purposes—expansion of production, social and cultural activities, premium, subsidies, nutritional diets, tonics as well as medical appliances and medicines for the disabled soldiers." Feeling indebted, the employees are working hard to make a contribution even a bit to the country's economy, says Kang.

The workers of the factory have accelerated the project of putting the factory on a modern basis. All the modern facilities standing in rows in every place are associated with the workers and technicians' patriotic mind of loving the factory.

One day the factory introduced a new large-sized injector in the injection workteam, but the machine was designed to produce goods of only one shape. As they knew well that it is important to have various moulds in the injecting work, some workers suggested taking the matter to a superior organ.

At that time Kwon Jong Chol, leader of the injection workteam, said, "Of course, the country will solve whatever we disabled soldiers request. But how can we always ask the state for what we need? Let's make injecting moulds with our own efforts to suit the condition of our factory." All the employees agreed with him. Not only managing officers, technicians and skilled workers of the factory but also researchers from scientific research institutes joined the effort.

Several months later, their ▶







pooling wisdom and efforts brought about the production of a new type of plastic barrel with a holding capacity of 90 litres with the trademark *Hyangodong*. Later various shapes of moulds for plastic water containers were also made.

Reading their devoted manner of work even in a single product, some people wonder what the source of their exploits is. The workers say, "Our hearts are still beating high in the revolutionary soldier spirit. We know we have to carry out anything we decide to do."

In addition, the workers are trying to produce new things with a correct understanding of people's demand. One day the factory was given a task to produce refractory plastic bottles for mushroom production. Soon a large amount of plastic bottles were produced, and this gave rise to lack of containers for putting them in. The cases for ordinary bottles produced at the factory were too big to put small plastic bottles in.

To solve the problem, Ri Chon Min, operator of a 50-ounce injector, was racking his brain, when a bright idea occurred to him. *What about a rice box used during my service days? It's enough to hold a good many light plastic bottles. Then, how can I make a mould and design of the box? Ok, it's a good idea to do everything by the efforts of my workteam,* he decided. Thanks to their efforts, a new type of square mushroom boxes of low height began to be produced.

That's not all. Having newly built modern welfare service facilities and a sci-tech learning space with their own efforts and techniques as befits creators of the soldier culture, all the workers of the factory are enjoying a civilized life to their heart's content. In the sci-tech learning space, they are assimilating knowledge as students of online college.

In May last, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the factory. Going round the factory, he highly appreciated that the disabled soldiers are invariably going the road of struggle for the country and the people as they did during their military service, in hearty response to the intention of the Party that the disabled soldiers should keep the flower of revolution in bloom. Expressing his expectation and conviction that they would fulfil their duties with a patriotic mind as standard bearers and shock brigade in carrying through the Party's policies, he had a photo session with them.

Now the workers of the factory are full of enthusiasm to keep the flower of revolution in bloom as they did as soldiers.

Sim Chol Yong

An innovation is brought about in the production of plastic goods.



Dream of Woman Researcher



LAST YEAR A NATIONAL seminar on basic technology took place in the Sci-Tech Complex. Dr Jang Kum Ok, a section chief of the laboratory of sci-tech information, Natural Science Institute, Kim Hyong Jik University of Education, presented her paper which clarifies the physical property of the nano-substance of barium titanate. It was rated as the best by judges and favourably commented upon by participants.

On her way home with the diploma, Jang recollected her childhood. As child she was fond of reading. While watching science fictions and science animations, she felt an urge to surprise the world with her own invention. At middle school she was taught by Kim Chol Ryong, who had learned physics at Kim Hyong Jik University of Education. He was a teacher who saw to it that she became interested in physics. He used to teach pupils in plain words about the long history of physical science and its role between nature and human beings. Attending his lessons, Kum Ok became interested in physics and applied for the physics circle. She fell into the physical world while solving problems using physical formulas with the help of the teacher of the circle after school. During the period she gradually extended her knowledge of physics and took first place several times in physical competitions sponsored by the district and city administrations.

After graduation she entered the physics faculty of Kim Hyong Jik University of Education. Her university days were the period for her to lay a foundation to realize her girlhood dream. After she finished university she worked as an editor and then head of the physical science department at the university press while concentrating her speculation on pioneering the virgin world of theoretical physics and putting efforts into combination of many things in the world with human life. Finally she published a paper on prediction of structural changes in substances.

Later she published a number of papers on basic physical studies while working as a researcher of sci-tech information at the Natural Science Institute. Some of her papers were carried by an international scientific and technological magazine.

In 2015 Kum Ok presented a doctoral thesis. Professor Kim Yon Il, researcher at the Physical Science Institute of the State Academy of Sciences, who guided her in her doctoral thesis, says, "There are a lot of tasks to carry out regarding vivacious researches on physical properties of interest found in low dimensional substances like nano-line and nano-particle, high-temperature superconductor and quasicrystal. With her thesis Kum Ok has contributed to physical studies and development of new materials to be applied to varieties of condensing agents."

Still keeping her childhood dream, Jang Kum Ok in her 40s is steadfastly carrying on her research to attain a higher aim.

Kim Hyon Ju

The national children's science fictions and models show 2017, held in June on the 71st anniversary of the founding of the Korean Children's Union





Domestic Production Is Not Difficult

RECENTLY THE PLANT conservancy institute of the Agricultural Research Centre has succeeded in domestic production of vegetable agrochemicals with nicotine as its main component. Researchers at the institute say that domestic production would hardly be impossible when they put efforts into solving problems in their own way in keeping with specific conditions.

Creation Instead of Imitation

The institute has vigorously carried on researches on vegetable agrochemicals. The project to



develop a nicotine-based chemical is one of them, which began years ago. They knew tobacco leaves, an abundant supply in Korea, could be used raw as a kind of natural insecticide. Nicotine is defined as poisonous substance, but as it is fast in analysis there is no worry about its harm to environmental protection. From long ago nicotine was extracted in various ways worldwide, but it was not widely produced as it has a high rate of heat-energy consumption together with a complicated production process. In Korea they produced insecticides by themselves using tobacco stalks and tobacco powder, waste material from tobacco factories. However, there were not industrial products yet. It is important in production of nicotine-based insecticide to extract and separate nicotine with much less consumption of heat energy and reagent so as to cut the production cost and ensure the maximum efficiency. Thus, it was urgent to find out a method of producing the chemical with a smaller sum of investment.

The institute intensified the research to reduce production processes which were already in use while studying foreign experiences, but found no solutions. Thus, the development of nicotine chemical came to a stop.

Simple Truth

Recently the problem of nicotine-used insecticide became outstanding again, as the country has been pushing domestic production forcefully. The researchers made strenuous efforts to find out a new way to extract nicotine easily. They made the first step all over again from designing escaping from the existing method. Presently they hit upon an excellent idea. It was a nicotine extraction technology based on vacuum combustion. The production process was simple while making no use of heat energy and reagent, and the extraction rate was higher than the past. The extracted nicotine was mixed with a dampening material, which had already been developed by the institute and turned out superior in practice. This led to industrial production. The dampening material is an emulsion type of additional material which is prepared to play a secondary role and make the most of the efficiency by way of spraying. Now the production cost of the nicotine insecticide was reduced to one twentieth of the earlier one while the output increased six times with the same amount of raw material. When 1-1.5 kg of the chemical was applied per hectare the rate of extermination of noxious insects increased up to 90-95 percent, which meant two times greater extermination efficiency than the past.

Researchers make an analysis of the nicotine content and verify the effect of a vegetable agrochemical.



Kim Jae Yun, the senior researcher, says, "We have developed our own new technology. It can increase the output with a much smaller investment than varieties of foreign technologies of nicotine production. Ours is based on a very simple principle, but it took us a lot of time of speculation."

Rim Ok

In Quest of the New

THE SUNGNI SENIOR MIDDLE SCHOOL in Rangnang District is known across Pyongyang as one whose students are bright at their lessons. When I visited the school to know its secret, headmaster Kim Sok Ryol, Labour Hero and People's Teacher, was examining the contents of the teaching program of physics. He showed the program to me. The teaching program of last year was filled up closely with new notes leaving no blank, whereas the new teaching program was clean, edited from last year's program. Its fuzzy pages are eloquent of the painstaking efforts of teachers to find out a new teaching method, writing in notes about the questions brought up in class. Here is a note jotted down by a teacher in the space of his program of instruction:

"The lesson went on by questions and answers and the students who answered my questions gratified me. But when I posed a problem relevant to the subject of the lesson, many of them failed to solve it. This was because I did not take into consideration their difference in ability. So, poor students feeling small in the presence of bright students remain dumb in class. I think it is required by the present-day education to enhance the average capacity of the students to nurse them into a large force of talent."

To give the different-levelled students enough time for thinking, the teacher cut the time of explanation in the lessons on condition that they prepare enough for the lessons, while letting them settle simple problems by means of discussion among each study group. Then he made it a rule to conduct a lesson where detailed explanation is given only about a difficult problem when it came hard for all students to understand and rewrote the teaching program accordingly. This enabled the weak students to have more opportunity to have their say and give full play to their latent faculties and encouraged all students to devote themselves to studies with greater zeal. His experience was generalized in the school, bringing forth various new teaching methods, and this resulted in a new school-year's teaching program for every subject which was just like an essay.

While making much account of the teacher's fluent speech in conducting classwork by the heuristic method, the school judged the real merit of the lessons by how much novel and original methods are employed in them. Some teachers given to their experiences awoke to the truth that sticking to outdated views, they could not keep pace with the demands of the times and started to explore new teaching methods one by one meticulously.

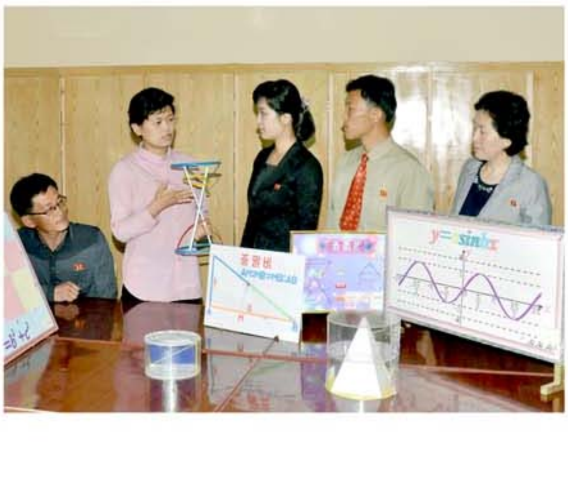
The school adopted a new yardstick in measuring the students' ability. It was impossible to evaluate accurately their cognitive faculty and ability of practical application by the conventional method of examination for cramming and memorizing. The school made a more strict demand on the students at the end of a school term or a school year, and took special care to prevent the examination questions from serving only for rating. The range of examination questions was extended and they were chosen not for memorizing but for efficient application in practice so that the students may become aware of their ability and exert themselves. All this led to the improvement of their ability.

In February last the school ranked first in the investigation of ability of the senior middle school students of the district conducted by the mode of overall examination by computers. The headmaster says, "People often say that we educators are people living for the future. But I think we cannot be called people living for the future just because we are now teaching the students. So, I would like to say that an educator is a person who goes always in quest of the new."

Chae Kwang Myong

Teachers work hard to develop new teaching methods.





Team of Competent Surgeons

THE FIFTH SURGICAL DEPARTMENT OF Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University is recognized as the most competent group in Korea in the field of anal and rectal surgery. They have successfully cured a lot of people, bringing the pleasure of life back to them. Their reputation draws many of such cases in the country.

With Mind's Eye

One day a 26-year-old girl was admitted into the department for her rectal cancer. Having learned at college, she was recognized as a promising researcher in her own field. Moreover, she was engaged.

The existing method of operation was to cut off the rectum and make an artificial anus in the side. Choe Song Guk, head of the department, fell into deep thought over the case. He was in distress over the idea that he had to make the girl with a bright future disabled. The hopeless situation of the girl would not recede from his mind. His conscience that argued for his responsibility for her future kept him from taking the scalpel. He decided that he had to develop a new surgical method to bring a normal life back to the cases of rectal cancer. Through persistent studies he finally found out a method and carried out the operation on the girl. Remembering the story, he says, "Entering the theatre I felt rather nervous, because it was an operation nobody had ever done. If I would end up in failure, the patient could not escape from death. I approached the case in the capacity of her father instead of a surgeon, and saw her not with my physical eyes but with my mind's eye. And that manner was the source of my courage."

Finally the girl could resume her cheerful and optimistic life without any handicap, and got married to be a good wife.

With the establishment of a new surgical method of cutting off the cancer in the lower rectum by the combination of resection and formation, the rate of making an artificial anus fell over 80 percent compared to the past, and the cases became able to live almost the same life as the normal one.

Well Done Is Half Done

When he was assigned as the head, Choe Song Guk found there is big difference between the duty of the department head and that of an ordinary member, despite his 20 odd-year career with a rich stock of experience. Whether the entire department staff became able or not depended on how the head played his role.



A new method is applied to surgical operations on rectum cancer.

Building on the success in the surgical operations of the cancer in the lower rectum, Choe made an innovation in the operation of the rectal prolapse as well. Earlier the rectal prolapse recurred even after operations. Renouncing the old method of operation, Choe applied the method of fixing the prolapsed rectum to the back wall of the pelvis, which turned out successful, bringing no more recurrence of the operation. What's more important is that he ensured a complete success without using any mesh in the operation, the expensive thing that had been regarded as essential for the operation around the world.

Emulating the department head, all staff members vied to introduce novel methods in treatment of critical cases and cut the time of treatment.

Kang Myong Ho from Hongwon County, South Hamgyong Province, had a complication of diabetes; after operation he caught blood poisoning, and even bedsore. Nobody thought he would survive.

But Choe and his staff members tried whatever they could; they held hundreds of consultations, and applied new curative methods while combining traditional Korean remedies. Their sincere effort covering more than 200 days brought the patient back to health, who left the hospital in a good condition.

The department developed different medical appliances themselves and introduced them into treatment. There have been many other achievements.

There are a lot of letters of thanks from people all across the country who owe their life to the surgeons of Choe's department.

Not content with their success, the medical staff are making constant progress in an innovative and enthusiastic manner.

Kim Chol Hyon

Without Satisfaction

"A TWO-YEAR-OLD operated on a two-year-old. It's surprising that you did it yourself with the help of a book alone. But it would be impossible for you to carry out heart operations for problems like Fallot's disease even in ten years." This is what a world-famous foreign expert in cardiosurgery said to doctors of the cardiovascular surgery of the Pyongyang Medical College (the then Pyongyang University of Medicine) Hospital of Kim Il Sung University. At that time, when it was only two years since the surgery was founded in the hospital, the doctors made a success in a heart operation on a two-year-old child. To the foreign expert, the deputy head of the surgery proclaimed, "You will understand soon that Koreans never make an empty promise."

Recollecting the time, Ri Chol Jin, chief of the similar surgery of the Okryu Children's Hospital, says, "It was during the time of the Arduous March and forced march that we began treatment of children's congenital heart diseases, which was a virgin territory for us. At that time we were all beginners, and we were short of everything. It was really difficult to take even one step."

At that time the cardiovascular surgery was mostly staffed with doctors in their 20s who had just graduated from the post-graduate school of the then Pyongyang University of Medicine. However, they shared a single mind. *Let's raise the children's heart surgery of our country up to the world level in our generation.*

Chol Jin says with a smile, "Now we can easily carry out such operations but at that time we did a lot of simulations, measuring the time with the help of a stopwatch, even for one operation."

For successful operation of a child's heart which is as small as an egg, they made a model the same size as a person's chest and installed an embroidering tambour which was the same size as a child's heart. Using the model, they trained strenuously all the year round to make stitching as accurate, swift and flexible as possible. It was by no means easy ▶



Doctors of the cardiovascular surgery department give an intensive treatment.



for men doctors to work with a small needle for several hours a day.

At the same time they strove hard to assimilate all knowledge in the field of heart surgery. They tried their best to learn advanced technology every day in order to make an operation into a basis for dozens of operations. During the period they became inventors and masters of novel conception. When they finished a mock operation in several hours they sometimes felt dizzy. But they improved their skills with confidence and courage, and thus made a success of the operation on the abovementioned child two years after the department was formed.

The surgeons were much aroused by the foreign doctor's statement. They combined their painstaking research and practice with an extraordinary determination that they should not pass the task of pioneering and occupying the field of children's heart surgery to the coming generation. Thus they acquired an original technique of operation of congenital heart diseases of children and post-operation treatment at the Okryu Children's Hospital. Next year they achieved a success in the first operation of Fallot's disease which had been said impossible even in ten years. That year they carried out dozens of operations of the disease. Meanwhile, they developed a superior method of heart operation based on right-chest-wall incision approach—it has a lower rate of occurrence of complications than median sternotomy approach which used to be a standard mode of heart operation; especially it improves the appearance of patients, thus reducing their mental anxiety over the scar. It has become the standard approach of heart operation in Korea.

Some years later the surgeons succeeded in an operation on a five-month-old child and thus, they increased the rate of success to over 95 percent. Now they carry out over 300 complicated cardiovascular operations flawlessly, exceeding the former record of 150 operations a year.



An interesting illustrated book is introduced.



The Okryu Children's Hospital receives letters of thanks from a lot of people and among them are New Year cards from little children. Being fully aware of their responsibility for children's lives, the doctors of the cardiovascular surgery are devoting their wisdom to the research into new techniques of treatment, without resting on their laurels.

Sim Hyon Jin

Tumbling Coach Pak Sun Nyo



PAK SUN NYO, TUMBLING coach at the Ministry of Commerce Sports Club, was one of the ten best coaches of 2016 in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Appointed as a tumbling coach at the sports club in 2007, she made up her mind to add to the honour of her country by training excellent tumblers.

What is noteworthy about her guidance is that she always exerts herself to make a novel arrangement of movements with an innovative eye in consonance with the characteristics of the event. She has made steady efforts all the time to develop and apply new and unique techniques from musical arrangement to movement formation.

Her tireless efforts have borne fruit. Among the tumblers she has trained are Ri Chol Jun and Kim Un Hak, who are evaluated as excellent players in national and international competitions.

One of Pak's productions was a kind of two-men activity suitable to physical qualities of the Korean players. Unlike events executed by several players, the movement was very difficult to perform, in which the supporting gymnast and the upper performer execute different acts like making a twist with each one of their hands taken each other. For the reason it required players' high physical fitness and mental strength. Pak gave the performers a clear understanding of theoretical problems regarding high-level technical movements while directing an effort to improvement of their physical fitness and spirit. She also saw to it that they carried out their acts perfectly while sharing the same idea and intention in the training.

Thanks to her unassuming effort, the two tumblers won dozens of gold medals at some national contests. Later they took second place at an international tumbling contest in 2013, when Ri was given the individual special skill award.

Ri Chol Jun and Kim Un Hak also participated in the 25th World Tumbling Championships in 2016 and came within the top three places for their high scores. Attracting more than 150 stars from 21 countries and regions, the championships saw a fierce rivalry between world-class tumblers.

In the two-men modelling, the Korean players smartly carried out difficult movements one by one while maintaining their accurate postures. In particular, the new act of the upper performer making a horizontal handspring while the supporting gymnast sat in a V shape—which Pak had introduced—was appreciated as a world-level movement.

Pak, a Merited Athlete, is still busy at her work with players, preparing a work of further developing the two-men modelling and other events on a high level.

Sim Chol Yong

Instruction is given for accurate performance of movements of a two-men event.



Their Hope Is Coming Into Bloom




Students polish their performing skills.

WHEN YOU GO TO THE swimming pool of the Changgwang Health Complex on the bank of the scenic Pothong River in Pyongyang, you can see little children performing beautiful synchronized swimming movements to the tune of cheerful music. Reminiscent of dancing water flowers, they are pupils of the juvenile sports school attached to the Changgwang Health Complex. The well-furnished school attracts many children aspiring to be synchronized swimming players.

Established in August 2000, the school cannot boast as long a history as other sports schools. However, it has many achievements to its credit in the synchronized swimming events in recent years. The school sees to scientific selection of its pupils according to their aptitudes and strictly plans education and training of them to suit their ages and physical aptitudes. And highly-disciplined training is given on all items of the curriculum such as swimming, basic carriages and basic techniques. Further, effective training methods and experience are actively introduced and, at the same time, new training methods and apparatuses are invented and put into use in keeping with the developing reality.

In recent years alone, the school has created over ten functional physical training methods in consonance with the world trend and applied them to suit the ages of the pupils to improve their movements. Further, the instructors have devised dozens of training aids efficient in developing the basic exercises and techniques. Thanks to their tireless efforts, many of the school's graduates have won in international events. At the Suv Paris 2016 international synchronized swimming competition, the Korean players won four gold medals, and all of them were graduates from this school. Han Kyong Ryong and Min Hae Yon won first place and received gold medals in solo play each in the events of junior class and senior class for their beautiful rhythmic movements and smart techniques. Han Kyong Ryong and Kim Jin Ju won the duo event of junior class and Min Hae Yon and Jang Hyon Ok the duo event of senior class and obtained gold medals for their superb performance of most difficult movements on the surface of water.

Vice headmistress Kang Kyong Ae says, "The news of our former pupils having won in international competitions encourages all of us teachers to train more reserves of synchronized swimming players, for that's the way to glorify the Korean synchronized swimming all over the world as a fadeless flower."

Thanks to the selfless endeavours of the teachers, the hope of the future synchronized swimming stars is coming into bloom on the water of the swimming pool of the Changgwang Health Complex.

Ri Song Chol



Family of Magicians

THE MAGIC THEATRE OF the National Acrobatic Troupe is located in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang. The performance of magicians is acclaimed for their smart skills and techniques and mystery interpretation. Among the magicians are Kim Thaek Song, who used to be called "Magic King" as he won several times at not only national but also international magic festivals, and his sons. Some time ago I, as a *Korea Today* reporter, went to visit them.

Debut

Thaek Song was born when Korea was under the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists. The Japanese persistent policy to stamp out the Korean culture by depriving the Koreans of not only their history and culture but also their language and spirit, cast a gloom over his growth. From childhood Thaek Song was dexterous. He always attracted his friends and villagers when he exercised his tricks with tools including spoons and chopsticks. Once in his hand, everything like stones and sticks used to become familiar with him. Thus, his neighbours often said that he would make a magician.

One day when he was 10 years old a hairy Japanese policeman came to his house and forcibly took him to the beautiful bank of the Taedong River. There were some other policemen at a feast. A seemingly head policeman shouted to Thaek Song to perform hand tricks. Thaek Song refused to obey his order, when he was ▶

Kim Thaek Song (*centre*) **is engrossed in training reserve magicians.**



beaten to pulp at their violent thrashing. Cursing their outrages, he decided not to perform hand tricks forever.

However, the liberation of his country brought him the rebirth. He was eager to do something to entertain the people who were devoting themselves to the building of a prosperous country. Thus, he returned to the entertainment world and made a debut in the magic circle.

His Career

Thaek Song started his career as a magician, when his magic programmes were very simple. At the time most of them depended on hand tricks alone, like snapping something out of a box, conjuring or putting away something in his hand.

One day in October 1971, he was honoured to give a performance unexpectedly in the presence of Chairman Kim Jong Il. When the performance was over the Chairman told him to bring about a daring innovation in magic. He said that the magic art should not be limited to hand tricks but be displayed in a big way while reflecting the actual life, that magic programmes should be diversified in their types and ranges, and that music, properties and apparatuses and even stage costumes should be suited to given magic pieces. Listening to him, Thaek Song felt ashamed of himself. Since he started jugglery to entertain people, he had failed to reflect their beautiful life in his performance, simply trying to play tricks.

He immediately approached the pulsating reality and completed a lot of wonderful pieces including "Cascade of Silk" and "Rich Harvest of Apples," representing the people's life.

Later he took the top place in a number of international magic festivals. Typically, he won the top honour at an international magic festival held in 1976 by presenting items true to the people's actual life, which broke away with the old practice of pursuing exciting and bizarre things. At the 16th International Modern Magic Festival held in July 1981 he was awarded the title of "Magic King."

Family Tradition

Decades have passed, and Thaek Song is over 80 years old. Still, he is devoting all his wisdom and enthusiasm to the training of reserve magicians in the Pyongyang Circus School. He has a lot of disciples. Following in his footstep, his disciples are glorifying the country at national and international magic festivals, giving happiness and joy to people. They include his sons, Kim Chol and Kim Kwang Chol, who won special and first prizes at some national and international magic festivals—they won the highest technical prize at the Monte Carlo International Magic Festival held in 1996. They became Kim Il Sung Prize winners and People's Artistes.

Kim Chol, first son, is working as head of the magic department at the National Acrobatic Troupe and Kim Kwang Chol, second son, as magician and director. Thaek Song's grandson Kim Kwang Song, a second-grader at the circus school, is now continuing his family's tradition. He says, "My grandfather is a Kim Il Sung Prize laureate, Labour Hero and People's Artiste. He enjoys love and respect from the people across the country. That's because he has all his life created magical pieces which reflect the people's life and give happiness and joy to them. I know I'll work devotedly for the people the way my grandfather, uncle and father have done."

Kim Son Myong

The first son Kim Chol.



The second son Kim Kwang Chol.



Family Tradition

"WHOSE DAUGHTER IS the girl? She is dancing very well."

"Well, she is Su Yang from my neighbourhood. She will surely be employed by an art troupe."

Returning home after seeing her daughter's performance at her school, Kim Myong Hwa, head of the Ryongsong Nursery, Ryongsong District, Pyongyang, was deep in thought considering praises of other students' parents for her daughter. *Art troupe? Then what about my mother's request?*

Parents feel happy when their children are praised by others, but Myong Hwa was far from happy, because she remembered her mother's request to maintain her family tradition.



Kim Myong Hwa, chief nurse of the Ryongsong Nursery in Ryongsong District, has sent all her children for military service to defend their country.

Her mother was born in Seoul. She suffered all kinds of grinding toil from her childhood. During the Fatherland Liberation War (June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953) she joined the Korean People's Army and fought bravely.

Learning from her experiences that the happiness and future of the family depend on the destiny of the country, she made sure that all of her six children joined the army to stand at the post to defend the country. Even when she was advised to send her youngest daughter (Myong Hwa) to university, she refused and saw to it that the daughter also joined the army, insisting that there should be no differences between men and women in defending the country.

In addition, she always took the lead in supporting the People's Army. In late September last year, she, as if she had had a presentiment that something would happen to her, took out her pension and a big parcel she had kept for several years and said to Myong Hwa, "… Serving in the army is our family tradition. Now nine of my grandchildren have joined the army following in the steps of their parents. So I want Su Yang to join the army, too. It is my last wish…. And this is what I can do for the country for the last time. It's my sincerity. Please have these sent to the devastated areas in the northern part of the country."

It was her last words. Myong Hwa got impressed by the last look of her mother whose devotion to the sake of the country was unselfish. She made up her mind to work like her mother and follow their family tradition of military service.

But what if Su Yang enters an art troupe?

Of course, Su Yang has an instinct for dance, and teachers of her school and a dance director from an art troupe had recognized the fact. At that time Myong Hwa had heard their words with delight, but now she regretted it. *No*, she thought, *developing talents at the school was not bad*. The matter was what she had to regard as more important. But she couldn't coerce her daughter. She knew a forced job could not go on smoothly.

She was awakened from her thought when Su Yang shook her by the arms. "Mum, what do you think of so deeply? You know I've imagined my leading role in the dance *I Can Still See Victory in the Revolution*. What a wonderful dream. If the maternal grandmother had been alive, she would have praised me highly." Myong Hwa went home with the thought that she should take any opportunity to tell Su Yang her own opinion. But the opportunity did not come of its own accord.

One day Su Yang visited her at work in the nursery. "Mum, I've come here to tell you an important matter. Today we all wrote out our aspirations," the daughter said and went on, "Mum, you know serving in the army is the tradition of our family. Of course dancing is my hope, but it is not more important than defending the country. At first I thought a lot, but finally I managed to control myself. You know I've grown up listening to the maternal grandmother's story of her military uniform like a lullaby. I would become a person who can do what ▸

His Own Rendition

MONTHS AGO, THE 2ND Krainev Moscow International Piano Competition was held in Russia, and Choe Jang Hung, 12, a student of Pyongyang Music School No. 1 of Kim Won Gyun University of Music, was awarded the special prize in the first category. In the final stage of the competition held from March 27 to April 1, he won great admiration from the audience as he performed world-famous music pieces, which require a high performing skill, quite well with polished interpretation and fine musical senses. The jury awarded the special prize to Choe, who showed an excellent performing skill, and the best teacher's prize to his teacher Kim Jae Sil.

Alexander Alexandrovitch Romanovsky, foreman of the jury, said to Choe, "It was really difficult to choose only one among five performers who passed the final contest, as they were all excellent performers. All the audience was impressed by your performance because you made effective use of your own musical individuality and characteristics. They are as good as adult performers, and it's attributable to not only their remarkable talent but also their teachers' efforts. I appreciate your performance. You showed the DPRK's high level of education through your own performance at the competition. You will certainly be an excellent performer."

Jae Sil made notes about Choe in her diary:

November 20, 2015, Friday, Sunny

Jang Hung has a lot of dreams. He hopes to be a conductor, composer or even football player…. His family has no musician. However, his musical talent of which his parents had little idea has come into bloom thanks to our benevolent socialist educational system. Jang Hung is competitive with a strong will, and he is a child with rich artistic fancy and musical sensitivity. He did not simply perform as I taught, but surpassed the level of my instruction. I was really surprised that he seemed to be an adult. I'm sure he is a born pianist. But he is still so young that when he looks out of the window and sees children play outside he looks envious and sometimes goes out stealthily to play. But I never criticize him, because I want to make him acquire the sense of playing the piano elastically while building up his body and pooling efforts and ideas with his friends.

October 17, 2016, Monday, Sunny

While I was pushing preparations for the competition I heard from the rector that it was rather large in scale, and I felt nervous. But I decided to let Jang Hung raise a challenge. We put a spur to our preparations. One day Jang Hung fell ill. I was afraid that my ambition had made him fatigued. I asked, "I wonder we should give up if you are tired?" Now he sprang out of his bed and said, "I'll take part in the competition without fail." Then he walked up to the piano. During the period he improved his technique of playing the piano along with his mind. He has a great advantage of marked individuality. He does not perform the way famous performers do, but knows how to render his own interpretation. I believe you, Jang Hung, brace yourself.



In May 2012 Jang Hung, with his own rendition, won the first prize at the 20th International Chopin Piano Competition for Children and Youth held in Poland. He was recorded as the youngest winner in the history of the competition. In October 2013 he won the first prize in the Zhongyin Cup International Piano Competition for Children and Youth held in China.

Jang Hung says, "I'll work harder without any self-satisfaction. So I'll glorify my socialist country all around the world."

Pak Un Yong

► the country wants. I volunteered to go to the front line."

Myong Hwa was moved to tears by the daughter's words. *Right,* she thought. *It can never be otherwise. Our younger generations who grow up under the socialist system will maintain the tradition of our society turned into a great harmonious family.*

Kim Il Ryong

Rungna Islet Dances

The Rungna Water Park.



IT IS AUGUST WHEN THE sun is scorching the earth. The Rungna People's Pleasure Ground, located in Rungna Islet in the Taedong River that meanders past the Chongnyu Cliff in Moran Hill, is one of the most popular resorts in Pyongyang. One of these days we visited the ground for news coverage.

When the bus carrying people to the pleasure ground exclusively was nearing the entrance bearing the signboard reading "Rungna People's Pleasure Ground," there burst forth cheers in the bus, for they found people sliding down delightfully with white sprays of water from the 127 m high water slide in the Water Park close to the entrance. As soon as they got down, young people hurried to the bathing ground to escape from the sun.

We found the pleasure ground divided into two sections, and we went to the first one.

The thing that caught my eye first was the electronic recreation hall. Equipped with different kinds of amusement facilities the house was so enticing even to the grown-ups, who were engrossed in games like children. A baby, seemingly a year and six months old, was sitting at the wheel of a children's car, "driving skilfully." When the game came to an end, the mother tried to take him out of the seat, saying, "It's time to go." But the child shook his head and got on the car again. People around burst into laughter.

Choe Song Hui, a servant there, said, "I often see children pestering their parents to take this car home. Once they are in this pleasure ground, they always ask their parents to take them here." She explained that since the pleasure ground was opened in 2012 the number of amusement facilities had grown considerably attracting a lot of people.

When we came out of the electronic recreation hall, it was already dark outside. Luckily, a pleasure train was about to leave for the second section with a full pack. We got on it. The train was an amusement facility that travelled between the two sections.

Halfway there was a labyrinth, where we dropped in. Surrounded by hedges and spanning a total length of 550 metres, it has an entrance, an exit, two open paths, three dead ends and nine closed paths. There we met Pak Kwang Il, a Kim Hyong Jik University of Education student, who successfully finished the maze in no more than 46 seconds.

Servant Ryang Kyong Hui said that the labyrinth was established last year attracting 3 000 people a day, that people usually found the exit in two or three minutes and that Pak Kwang Il was the first to finish the course in only 46 seconds. Hearing his story about his experience in the maze we went over to the second section together.

While we were stepping into the section we heard a voice saying, "Now let's enjoy ourselves on the amusement facilities." We found it was an old man, and his wife, children and friends who had just had a party in the Rungnado Restaurant in honour of the elderly man's 60th birth anniversary. The man said, "My wife and I promised to get married strolling under the willow trees in this ►





The Rungna Dolphinarium.

islet 30 years ago. Remembering the day I have enjoyed the party arranged for my 60th birthday. This islet used to be famous for beautiful landscape, and now its position as a public resort has grown higher. It is a people's pleasure ground with all qualities of modern culture. I'm going to get younger enjoying the amusement facilities with my wife." With these words, the hero of the group, Pak Chol Man, headed for the Octopus.

We got on Sky Drop ourselves. The facility jerked up and soared into the sky before diving sharply—such a movement repeated several times. Presently the facility stopped high up in the air. At the moment there came exclamations at the wonderful scenery before the eyes. To the west were groves of trees on Moran Hill so close that I felt I could touch it if I stretched out my arm; next to it was the May Day Stadium looking like a falling parachute, and the Chongnyu Bridge with a unique attraction; to the east was spread a galaxy-like nocturnal scene of bright lights from the Munsu Water Park and other edifices in the east Pyongyang area. Below we could see a whole scene of the pleasure ground where all kinds of amusement facilities were dancing pleasantly with dazzling illuminations. The Rungna Dolphinarium looked like a dolphin performing a stunt over the Taedong River. Indeed, the islet in the river looked just like a flower basket floating in the water. The amusement park filled with the sound of laughing and cheers of the crowds of people in the ground, well matched by the waving willow trees, was no less than a wonderland.

The islet used to be a pleasure resort of the rich alone in the past. On the Chongnyu Cliff face you can still find the names of the rich people, which they had inscribed to display their power and influence. Now there is a strikingly high name of Rungna People's Pleasure Ground, created by the Workers' Party of Korea.

Telling the story of a new era when the people are held in respect, the Rungna Islet was dancing far into the night.

Rim Ok



At the Rungna Amusement Park.







Legendary Tale about Chollima Football Team

(Continued from the last issue)

HAVING GONE 2 TO 0 ahead, the Korean team continued to threaten the Portuguese goal area without decreasing the speed of their attack. Fascinated by the Korean players' movements, the audience applauded in succession, stamping their feet and sending up rousing cheers. And gradually they intensified their cheering, forming organized waves.

The Portuguese tried to make up for their loss, encouraging and sometimes yelling to one another. But their attack was often frustrated without breaking through the defence line of the Korean players who held firm control of the midfield and took the initiative in the match. The Korean players would organize and launch an attack once in the right area and then in the left area as they wished. At the 25^{th} minute of the first half they tried for a side attack in the left area. Through change of positions and fast thrust they made a breakthrough in the centre of the opponent's goal area, and Yang Song Guk, a left wing of the Korean team, quickly moved to occupy a position favourable for an attack. When a back of the opponent checked his way, Yang left him about 3 metres behind by means of his forte of spinning his body anticlockwise, and confronted the rival keeper face to face. Then Yang pretended to try to kick the ball to the left side before kicking it towards the right corner of the goal with composure. The Portuguese keeper fell down with his legs spread wide, and the ball lightly hit the net of the goal. The Liverpudlian spectators, who had witnessed the scene of the Portuguese team's winning the final match of Group C, remained open-mouthed with astonishment.

The Portuguese players, grumbling to themselves, put the ball down on the central line and hurried a kick-off. With three scores lost, they launched a general attack in an attempt to break through the rival's defence line. Even fullbacks as well as midfielders joined the attack. At the 27^{th} minute of the first half Eusebio, displaying his forte, rushed forward in cooperation with an adjoining player on the left side and took a nonstop at the goal to score a point. This marked a turning point in the Portuguese team's play. It was less than two minutes after the Korean team scored the third point. This badly affected all the Korean players.

The situation of the match gradually became favourable for the Portuguese team. And a minute before the end of the first half the Israeli referee whistled to signal a penalty kick for the Portuguese. The Korean backs protested, but the referee obstinately refused to cancel the penalty kick.

Ri Chan Myong, the Korean keeper, had to confront Eusebio, a master scorer of the Portuguese team. Silence fell upon the stadium. After putting the ball down on the penalty spot, Eusebio walked backward far away from the spot and then ran forward kicking the ball. Ri Chan Myong soon grasped the direction of the ball's flight and jumped touching it, but failed to toss it over the crossbar. So, the first half ended in the Korean team's favour by 3 to 2.

During the second half the situation went unfavourable for the Korean team. At the 12^{th} minute of the second half the Portuguese team scored another point, tying the score 3 to 3. Two minutes later the referee announced a penalty kick once again for the Portuguese team. As a result, the Korean team was one point behind its rival. The Israeli referee, who had become a moneygrubber in a society where money was everything, took no account of sportsmanship. So there came into being the word "*Israeli referee*" as a synonym for unfair refereeing in the history of the World Cup.

The demoralized Korean players were not able to move properly as they wished. Towards the end of the match the Korean team lost another one point. As a result, the score was 5 to 3 in favour of the Portuguese team….

Although the Korean team failed to win, the scenes of its fine play caused a great sensation. A British reporter, who was covering sports activities, fairly commented, "The Israeli referee was bribed by Portugal. The Koreans did not lose." AP reported that north Korea showed that a new

► football force appeared in the Far East. The French newspaper *Tresse* reported, "The Koreans showed how loyal they are to sportsmanship. This time they set an example for the football championship to follow." A British TV broadcast the scenes of the quarterfinal match between the Koreans and the Portuguese as an extra programme, reporting, "Attention should be paid to the new aspects of Korean football. There can be found no other team but the Korean that won sweeping popularity in the quarterfinal matches of the current football championship." A British morning paper carried an article that fairly commented, "A small team from the Far East shocks the world football circle. Their play was really heroic." The British newspaper *Sunday Times* reported that the match between the Korean team and the Portuguese team was the best among those of the current world football championship.

Comparing the might of Korean football with that of the strongest teams in the world, the global football circle tried to find the secret of Korean football's rising up with original quality and new aspects.

In fact, the Korean team did not hesitate to attack afraid of a counterattack or leave off defending to attack. Whenever holding control of the ball, they switched over to an all-round attack and when missing the ball they immediately launched all-round defence. And always on the basis of fastest attack, they kept combining attack and defence. They were quick in action and their motion was far and wide. Their method of playing always varied, giving full play to their creativity and vigour. The match was fierce all the time, and the Korean players turned the ground into a hardfought field. The Korean-style football's shocking charm and original aspects aroused worldwide admiration and high praise.

The call "Look at Korean football! Let's learn Korean football" came out from among football fans in Europe and South America.

Unexpectedly a stream of foreigners began to visit the monastery, where the Korean football team was staying, just the day of the match between the team and that of Portugal. The delegation of the Korean team had nobody to receive and talk with foreign visitors and deal with actual affairs. Then a Swedish football match broker came together with an interpreter and said, "You've created a worldwide sensation. Now many countries in South America are inviting you to have matches with their players. The football circle of Brazil formally requested me to negotiate with you for your visit to the country. If it is difficult for you to fix the date and time right now, can you suggest that you will come later this year or the next year? Then I will deal with all other things. If you go to Brazil at its invitation Uruguay, Argentina and other neighbouring countries will send you letters of invitation for your visit to them in succession. Then you will be able to earn much money. In fact, Brazil which calls itself a football power never invites a country weak in the game."

An ordinary worker of Middlesbrough, who had become a "football gambling prince" overnight, expressed his sincere sympathy for the Korean team, saying, "You showed a true image of Koreans, and set examples as models of sportsmanship and sportsmanlike morality through impressive scenes. People here really take great pride in having cheered you."

World people came to see the new aspects of Korean football that reflects the characteristics of the nation, and were fascinated by the future-oriented validity of the Korean-style football tactics….

At last the curtain fell for the fierce competitions of football teams of various countries to win the world cup.

The Korean team's motherland warmly embraced them on their return after showing up like a comet to create a great sensation in the world football circle. Busy as he was continuing with his journey for on-the-spot guidance in a mountainous area far away from Pyongyang, President Kim Il Sung saw to it that the football players coming back after displaying the honour of Chollima Korea to world people in the land of England were welcomed properly.

The players expressed their thanks to the President who treated them like triumphant generals although they did not win successive victories but came only within the eighth place at the 8th World Football Championship.

Decades have passed since then. But the story of the Korean football team shocking the world left an obvious trace in the history of the championship, and is still told like a legend among football experts and fans without being forgotten.

The end

Eight Famous Scenes in the Sobaeksu Valley (3)



Sobaek Stream Flowing All the Year Around.

Sobaek Stream Flowing All the Year Around

A GOOD HARMONY OF THE most sublime Jong Il Peak and the Sobaek Stream meandering around it for all seasons enhances the remarkable scenery of the Sobaeksu Valley. The stream, associated with the spirit of Mt. Paektu and the wonders of nature, never freezes even in the severe cold of winter when clean and white snow covers the whole world.

The name Sobaeksu comes from the fact that it meanders around Mt. Sobaek. The stream is about 15.1 km long and rises from Lake Chon on Mt. Paektu. It makes its way through an underground channel to the Sobaeksu Valley where it gushes out and then flows down around Chairman Kim Jong Il's birthplace in the Paektusan Secret Camp. Then it runs down 2 km to the southwest before joining a tributary stream flowing between Mt. Kom and Saja Peak.

In the crystal-clear stream which does not freeze even in midwinter can be seen even a grain of sand.

The Sobaek Stream is very attractive in all seasons: Plants push out new shoots and migratory birds sing in spring; all kinds of bees and butterflies fly to the beautiful sea of flowers in summer; swallows fly away to the south and wild ducks flock there in autumn; and hoar frost is in full bloom in winter.

Nocturnal View of Firework Display in February

In celebration of the Day of the Shining Star (Kim Jong Il's birth anniversary) magnificent fireworks soar up into the night sky over the birthplace every year.

The nocturnal view of firework display over Jong Il Peak in February is very enchanting and wonderful. When lots of fireworks burst in midair above the native house, the snowscape of the Sobaeksu Valley is much more fantastic. The sound of fireworks shakes the primeval forest covered with white snow and the dazzling fireworks make the shape of Jong Il Peak more magnificent.

The storm of cheers rocks the heaven and earth, and the word *Jongilbong* carved on Jong Il Peak shines brilliantly in the beautiful fireworks.

The event of firework display takes place in the presence of the Korean people and lots of foreigners. It is really one of the greatest spectacles. ▸

Endless Stream of Visitors

Mt. Paektu is a historical place where the Korean revolution started. It is associated with the bloody armed struggle that President Kim Il Sung fought to defeat the Japanese imperialists by leading the Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

In the 1950s Chairman Kim Jong Il opened the path to the revolutionary battle sites in the area of Mt. Paektu leading the first organized study tour. Now lots of Korean people follow the path renewing their revolutionary faith and will to learn the immortal revolutionary exploits the President had accomplished for the cause of national liberation.

Over sixty years have passed since the study tour began, and the Sobaeksu Valley has been visited by an endless stream of people.

When he climbed up Mt. Paektu in October 2014, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un declared that the Korean people, in the future, too, should march forward dynamically to achieve the final victory of the Songun-based revolutionary cause, keeping the Paektusan Secret Camp as their spiritual mainstay.

The endless stream of visitors to Mt. Paektu is growing ever larger.

Kim Son Myong



Nocturnal View of Firework Display in February.

Endless Stream of Visitors.



True to Tradition of National Dishes

LOACH SOUP WAS famous for promoting health from olden times. Loach dish is of high digestive rate, effective in improving the liver function while increasing stamina. It is also good for restoration of patients' energy and children's growth as it is of high nutritive value. Thus, Koreans cooked the loach soup from long ago. Especially they used the loach in autumn, when it is fat and highly nutritious. Hence, it is called Chuo, that is, autumn fish.

The Jungsong Restaurant of the Central District Restaurant Chain, Pyongyang, is famous for the loach soup. It is attributable to efforts of Han Jong Hui, chief cook of the restaurant, who has worked there for nine years. When she was assigned to work at the restaurant, she found the cooks resorting to old cuisine alone in preparing national dishes. Based on her two decades of cooking experience, she decided to develop the traditional loach soup into a national dish suited to the modern palate while retaining full national fragrance. Workshops on loach dishes and discussions for improving the taste were often organized. A lot of brilliant ideas were produced. Some of them were: customers feel unpleasant with hard bones of the loach soup when it is sliced and then prepared based on the traditional cuisine; the soup tastes better when the pulverized loach is cooked with bean curd; it smells much sweeter when it is cooked with parsley and crown daisy instead of mint.

Jong Hui bravely applied the ideas to the preparation of dishes. Through painstaking efforts and practices, the cooks learned features of the loach dish and improved their cooking techniques. Later, they won the top prize at the 21st Cooking Festival held in celebration of the Day of the Sun in 2016 as they prepared the loach soup with its original taste, aroma and colour suited to characteristic national fragrance and modern palate while improving its nutritive value and medicinal effect. They also won top prizes and technical prizes at other competitions and exhibitions.



Efforts are made to improve the taste of the loach soup.



Jong Hui says, "I think development of national dishes is just to maintain the national character and carry forward and develop the national tradition. We will offer our customers more delicious national dishes suitable to Koreans' constitution and appetite."

The workers of the restaurant find their worth of life in glorifying the tradition of national dishes.

Choe Sol Mi

Translated Version of *Jungbomunhonbigo* Published



RECENTLY THE NAtional classic *Jungbomunhonbigo* was translated and published in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The classic was completed by modifying and supplementing *Tonggukmunhonbigo*, a book published in 1770, several times for over 130 years. It was published in 1907 by tens of writers and scholars under the title of *Jungbomunhonbigo*.

It is classified into 16 parts including *Sangwigo*, *Yojigo* and *Jegyego*. Each part has detailed items describing various facts on the basis of reference to several documents and historical authentication. The classic is divided into 50 books in 250 volumes in total, and its translated version is made up of 21 books in 16 volumes.

As valuable treasure of the country, *Jungbomunhonbigo* is of great significance in the study of the Korean history. It contains a wealth of information and describes them in a far-reaching scope. It is a matter of fact that national classics are written in a diaristic way, compiling events and facts by date.

But *Jungbomunhonbigo* is written in such a way that the content of an event is divided into some parts and each part is widely described in detail. For example, the part of *Pyonggo* is classified into several subjects of military affairs of Korea—successive military systems and main books on military science, organizations of central, local and naval forces and their strength, provisions, signal fires, administration of military horses and posts—and contains their detailed information.

The classic is also embracive. The national classics *Chronicles of the Feudal Joson Dynasty* and *Pibyonsadungnok* both contain the events of the feudal Joson dynasty, but *Jungbomunhonbigo* contains historical events from the period of Ancient Joson, Three Kingdoms, Palhae, Later Silla, Koryo to the feudal Joson dynasty.

In addition, the classic describes the information in detail ensuring their correctness. For example, the part of *Hogugo* gives the exact numbers of the households and families by times, and *Sijokgo* describes in detail the number of markets held every five days in Phyongan Province in the 17th century and the quantity of thousands of kinds of articles which were circulated in the markets at that time.

What is noteworthy about the classic is that it contains valuable facts, which have never been found in other national classics, including the one that Tok Islet is a sacred part of the Korean territory.

As *Jungbomunhonbigo* was translated and published, a national treasure was provided for reference in studying and carrying forward the Korean history and culture.

Prof. Ri Tong Yun at Kim Il Sung University, who was one of the translators, says, "Now that *Jungbomunhonbigo* was translated and published, we have got a great asset in preserving and developing the Korean history and national traditions. The work of translating and publishing the national classics is very important in preserving and developing the national character of a relevant nation. In the future, too, we'll translate and publish lots of national classics to make an active contribution to preserving the Korean history and advantages of our nation."

Kim So Yong

Historical Relics in Kaesong (1)



The Mausoleum of King Wang Kon and the memorial house.

Mausoleum of King Wang Kon

THIS MAUSOLEUM IS FOR KING WANG KON (877–943), the founder of Koryo (918–1392). He was a powerful feudal magnate in the area of Kaesong, the then Songak. He performed meritorious deeds in a number of battles. In 913 he was appointed as *Sijung*, the highest government position of Thaebong State (901–918). In 918 he staged a military coup against the repressive governance of Kung Ye (?–918), king of Thaebong, and founded a new kingdom. He named his country Koryo to the effect that it succeeded Koguryo. Then he enforced a policy for territorial integrity while ensuring political security of the country. At the same time he secured old territory of Koguryo north of the Taedong River, while pursuing the policy of accepting the ruined people of Palhae (late 7th century–early 10th century). Thus, he accomplished the cause of territorial unification by annexing Silla (mid-first century–935) in 935 and Later Paekje (900–936) in 936.

The Mausoleum of King Wang Kon, located in Haeson-ri, Kaesong, was constructed in 943 for the first time and reconstructed in 1994. It is on a small ridge of Mt. Mansu, a stretch of Mt. Songak. On one side of the gate stands the Monument to the Reconstructed Mausoleum of Founder King of Koryo Wang Kon with President Kim Il Sung's autograph engraved on it. On the back of the monument is to be seen a poem dedicated to exploits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il for the reconstruction of the mausoleum. Just pass the gate, and you can see a memorial house and a pavilion for a monument. Pass the house and pavilion, and you will find the mound in the style of an earth-covered stone tomb that used to be prevalent in Koguryo. Around the mound there stand 12-angled stone screens and they are encircled by a stone fence.

The mound is eight metres high and the stone screen is 19 metres in diameter. In each of the four corners of the mound there is a stone tiger, and in front are an altar, stone posts and stone lanterns. In the second and third terraces that are a little lower than the mound area, there are stone images of eight aides of the king, who accomplished great feats in founding the unified state of the Korean nation. The mound is divided into a stone door, a passageway and a burial chamber. In the centre of the chamber there is a big stone bier. At the foot of the right and left walls there is a long shelf of relics. Murals are painted on the three walls that face the north, east and west—where bamboos, pine trees and blue dragon and white tiger are painted. The paintings are powerful in their structure, line and colour, and retain techniques of interpretation of Korean painting which is peculiar and vivid. ▸

In and around the mausoleum area there have been unearthed different kinds of relics—jewel buckles, a bronze kettle and gilt-bronze ornaments. A gilt-bronze sedentary statue of King Wang Kon is a typical example. At the time of its unearthing it had thin silk fabrics and gilt-bronze pieces attached on its body. There remained vestiges of gold-plating on some parts of the statue including its head. The statue was topped with a crown divided into the inner and outer parts. The outer part depicted a mountain in its front centre and clouds on the right and left sides. The inner part is higher than the outer one, with numbers of strings hung like a waterfall. Along the edges on the inner part were carved eight circular decorations on a regular basis, six of which remain now. The decorations are patterned on the sun and the moon.

On June 23, 2013 the Mausoleum of King Wang Kon was registered in the UNESCO list of world cultural heritage as it is a valuable historical and cultural relic carrying the history of the building of the unified state.

Koryo Songgyungwan

Koryo Songgyungwan, located in Pangjik-dong, Kaesong, was the highest institution of education in the period of Koryo (918–1392), a feudal state. It has the longest history of its kind in the world. In 992 Kukjagam, the highest national institution of education, was set up in Kaegyong, the capital of Koryo. In 1087 it moved into Taemyong Palace, a detachment of the royal palace, built in Kaegyong in 1047. It was reorganized as Songgyungam in 1298, as Songgyungwan in 1308, as Kukjagam in 1356 and finally as Songgyungwan in 1362. The buildings of the

The interior of the Myongryundang of the Koryo Songgyungwan.



The Taesongjon of the Koryo Songgyungwan.







The Taehungsan Fort.



The north gate of the Taehungsan Fort.

Koryo dynasty were burned down by the Japanese aggressors during the Imjin Patriotic War (1592–1598) and the present buildings were reconstructed in 1602–1610.

Songgyungwan occupies a total area of 10 000 square metres. It has 18 traditional Korean-style tile-roofed houses including Tongjae, Sojae, Myongryundang and Taesongjon, which are located symmetrically along the central axis. There used to be 200 students, who were to live in the dormitory as a matter of rule. They were chosen among nobles who had passed the minor civil and primary state examinations. The buildings are rather big compared with those still remaining from the middle years of the feudal Joson dynasty. For their scale and structure, the buildings offer valuable information in studying the art of architecture of the relevant time. On June 23, 2013 Koryo Songgyungwan was registered in the UNESCO list of world cultural heritage.

North Gate of the Taehungsan Fort

Located in Pagyon-ri, Kaesong, the Taehungsan Fort is a mountain fortress built for the purpose of defending the north of Kaegyong, capital of Koryo (918–1392). It was heavily reconstructed in 1676 and 1783. It is about 10.1 kilometres in circumference. It has four main gates to the east, west, south and north and six minor gates inbetween.

The north gate still retains the original embankment and gate tower. Erected with big stones, the embankment has an arched gateway, which is 3.7 m in height and width and 5.5 m in length, in the middle. The gate frame has side holes used to attach the big doors and a stone for the braking of the door. The tower of the north gate has a gable roof decorated with gorgeous paintings. It adds to the scenic beauty of Pagyon together with the Pom Pavilion next to Komo Pool which is fed by the famous Pagyon Falls.

The north gate of the Taehungsan Fort is valuable cultural heritage that represents Koryo people's high level of architecture and ardent patriotism to defend their country.

Kim Yu Jin

Choe Mu Son

A MILITARY OFFICER IN the time of Koryo, Choe Mu Son (1326–1395) was an inventor of gunpowder and firearms. In the latter half of the 14th century the incessant intrusions of Japanese pirates brought serious calamities to the people of Koryo. He believed that gunpowder was the most formidable weapon to repulse the Japanese pirates. Through his painstaking efforts and experiments for several years, he finally found out a method of making nitre, the raw material for gunpowder. Based on this, he succeeded in making various firearms.

According to the suggestion of Choe to mass-produce firearms, an ordnance department in charge of their production was set up in 1377 and he was appointed its chief. He made powder, firearms and even shells by relying on the creative wisdom of the handicraftsmen recruited to the arsenal. In 1378 a unit armed with new weapons was formed. Under his dissection the building of a warship to be equipped with cannons was pushed forward for the first

National Intangible Cultural Heritage (9)

Legend of Two Love Stars Kyonu and Jingnyo

"THE LEGEND OF KYONU and Jingnyo" about the Altair in the constellation Aquila and the Vega in the constellation Lyra is a legendary heritage of the Korean people from olden times.

A Koguryo mural tomb in Tokhung-ri constructed in 408 has pictures of Kyonu and Jingnyo entitled with *Appearance of Kyonu* and *Appearance of Jingnyo,* showing that the legend was already widespread among the Koguryo people at the time.

According to the legend, there lived a kind-hearted pretty girl in the stellar world called Jingnyo meaning weaver girl as she was skilled at the loom. She was in love with Kyonu, a hard-working cowboy. The king of the stellar world came to know the fact. Calculating that it would be hard to work them freely if they lived near to each other, he separated them far off, and allowed them to meet only once a year, on the night of July 7 of the lunar calender. So, Jingnyo wove on the east of the Galaxy while Kyonu raised cattle on the west. Since then the two stars twinkling alone separated on each side of the Galaxy have been called *Jingnyo* and *Kyonu* stars.

Kyonu and Jingnyo set apart tens of millions of miles from each other across the Galaxy wait tearfully for the day, July 7. Finally the day comes round, but they cannot meet; they just look at each other over the Galaxy which lies between them so vast and deep. In anguish they keep shedding tears. Their tears bring heavy rainfalls on the earth, causing a big trouble to the people because it is the time when cereals grow ripe. Now, the people come to know all about it and send crows and magpies to fly through the sky to the Galaxy to build a bridge across it. This helps the two love stars to cross the Ojak (Crow-Magpie) Bridge and have an emotional reunion. After that, on July 7 of the lunar calendar every year, no magpies can be seen on the earth, for all of them have gone to the Galaxy to lay a bridge. And it is said that the rainfall in the morning of that day is the tears of sigh shed by the two stars with the Galaxy between, the rain in the afternoon is the tears of joy of meeting, and the rain in the evening is of sorrow of separation.

Reflecting beautiful human feelings, this tradition has been handed down from olden times among the people and recreated in various styles of literary art like poem. *The Legend of Kyonu and Jingnyo* has been so well-known among the Korean people that the term Ojak Bridge has come to stand for love affairs. A typical example of this is that in the classical novel *The Tale of Chun Hyang*, the heroine Chun Hyang meets her love Ri Mong Ryong on a bridge and that the bridge is named Ojak Bridge.

Kim Chol Hyon

► time. The power of the powder and firearms invented by Choe was displayed in the Jinpho and Pakduyang naval battles in 1380 and 1383 respectively. Choe Mu Son took part in the naval battle off the coast of Jinpho, Jolla Province as vice-commander of the fleet. In the battle between over 100 Koryo warships and more than 500 Japanese pirate ships, the Koryo naval forces rained gunfire on the Japanese vessels, setting the pirate ships on fire and destroying them all. The victory of the battle marked a turning point in the fights against the persistent intrusion of Japanese pirates from the mid-14th century. The patriotic struggle of the Koryo people and their use of powder weapons remarkably discouraged the Japanese pirates from invasion on the land of Korea.

For his invention and manufacture of powder weapons and contribution to the buildup of military strength, Choe Mu Son was promoted to a higher official post and, later, in the feudal Joson dynasty, too, remained in a high office. He handed down a book of his writing on the method of making gunpowder to his son Choe Hae San through his wife. Hae San further developed the method of making gunpowder and devised many powder weapons. To this day the name of Choe Mu Son is widely known among the people.

Rim Sang Jun

Patriotic Stand for Peace and Reunification

SEVENTY-TWO YEARS have passed since the Korean nation was liberated on August 15, 1945 from the cruel military occupation of the Japanese imperialists and divided into north and south by the US imperialists at the same time.

As they have suffered the pain of national division since the short-lived delight of liberation, the Koreans understand that they should open up a broad avenue to independent reunification through a concerted effort of the whole nation.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is consistent in its stand to safeguard the security of the compatriots and peace of the country without fighting with the fellow countrymen. Proceeding from the standpoint of loving the country and nation to improve inter-Korean relations through a concerted effort of the whole nation and open up a broad avenue to independent reunification, the DPRK urged, whenever an opportunity presented itself, that the south Korean authorities should not indulge in treason toeing the line of foreign forces but respect their fellow countrymen in the north as partners in national reunification. And the DPRK has made every possible effort for one Korea.

In this course, the July 4 Joint Statement was proclaimed, giving a hope and optimism for national reunification to all Koreans. At that time the south Korean authorities promised positively that they would reject foreign intervention in the internal affairs of the nation and not be stooges of the US or Japan. They pledged to regard the three principles for national reunification as the mainstay of reunification. If they had kept the promise, the inter-Korean relations would have advanced a long way along the road of reconciliation, unity, peace and prosperity, and a new era of national independence would have opened up on this land to solve the reunification problem with the nation's own effort.

The south Korean authorities, however, degraded to servile agents and slaves of the US and Japan, flung away the principles of national independence, and have zealously catered to the foreign forces in their aggressive hostile policy towards the DPRK. In particular, Park Geun Hye, who was sentenced to impeachment by the south Korean people in March last, had turned inter-Korean relations into a plaything in the American hand for control of the DPRK, while going against the will of the fellow countrymen who aspire to independent reunification and pursuing a sycophantic policy towards big powers and a treacherous stand towards the Korean nation during her office. Peddling the hostile policy towards the DPRK camouflaged as the "confidence-building process" and "Dresden announcement," she was obsequious to the foreign forces buzzing around the United States and other countries to beg for strangulation of the fellow countrymen in the north.

This deplorable reality gives the Korean nation a historic lesson that as long as there are traitors inciting antagonism and confrontation while targeting the fellow countrymen as "enemy," it is impossible to achieve national reconciliation and unity.

National unity precisely means the country's reunification, and only when the whole Korean nation is united into one, will it be possible to realize national reunification. For the purpose, a meeting of chairmen of the north, south and overseas sides of All-Korean Committee for Implementation of June 15 Joint Declaration was held last February. The meeting discussed practical matters for improving the north-south relations and opening up a new phase of independent reunification by the concerted efforts of all Koreans this year that marks the 45th anniversary of the historic July 4 Joint Statement and the 10th anniversary of the October 4 Declaration.

In May last, a ceremony for inaugurating the preparatory committee of workers' organizations in the north and the south for a pan-national conference for peace and reunification of Korea and development of inter-Korean relations took place in the north and the south of Korea respectively. The ceremony adopted an inaugural declaration, which announced that the conference would become a significant occasion in implementing the north-south agreements to improve the north-south relations and open a new heyday of peace and independent reunification of the country. It also underscored the need to orient all exchanges and solidarity activities to be conducted between the workers' organizations in the north and the south this year to holding the conference.

The formation of the preparatory committee of the workers' organizations gave a momentum to activities of all strata at home and abroad to hold a grand pan-national meeting for reunification in this significant year.

No harsh trials and challenges can check the march of the Korean people who are advancing for national reunification with full confidence and a patriotic standpoint for peace and reunification.

Rim Hye Gyong

Is This Really for the US?

NOWADAYS THE KOREAN peninsula is in a constantly high tension in which a war might break out at any moment due to the US's reckless policy of military aggression and pressure.

On April 6 this year the US carried out a surprise cruise missile attack on Syria and advertised it as a strong warning signal to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Then, it hurled massive strategic means into the Korean peninsula talking of its separate military measure to cope with the DPRK like a pre-emptive strike. At the same time, the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *Carl Vinson*-led target force, which was on its way home after it had participated in the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle 17 joint military exercises in south Korea, was dispatched back to the surrounding waters of the Korean peninsula. It was followed by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *Nimitz*-led target force, which had been staying off the west coast of the USA. All in all, three nuclear-powered aircraft carriers-based task forces were deployed in the operating zone off the peninsula, when the *Ronald Reagan*-based task force is included.

At their inception the Trump Administration admitted Obama's "strategic patience," a hostile policy against the DPRK, as a failed policy or a finished policy, and considered varieties of hostile conceptions regarding the DPRK policy. They betrayed their true colour by conducting the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle 17 joint military exercises all across the south Korean territory. They openly advertise that the DPRK policy decided by the Trump Administration is aimed at: first, applying maximum sanctions and pressure against the DPRK along with somebody else; secondly, permanently deploying tactical nuclear weapons in south Korea; thirdly, carrying out separate military actions geared to "beheading operation" and "preemptive strike." Based on the policy, the US House of Representatives passed a new act on sanctions against the DPRK with which to extend the scope of separate sanctions to the maximum and impose sanctions on foreign enterprises, organizations and individuals if they have economic transactions with the DPRK or employ its workers. Soon the US military launched two intercontinental ballistic missiles for test in a little over a week from April to May last. "Maximum pressure and engagement," Trump's anti-DPRK strategy, has turned out to put Obama's "strategic patience" in the shade.

From the Trumen Administration, which drove the DPRK into ravages of war on the pretext of "communist threat," to the Obama Administration through the Bush government which marked the DPRK arbitrarily as "axis of evil" and "rogue state," the US's persistent DPRK policy has been aimed at aggression against the DPRK and overturn of its government.

How about the reality, though? Sixty-four years ago the US troops, who had been proud of their 100 years of aggression, bit the dust in the DPRK. The Bush Administration tried their best to suffocate the DPRK but pushed the country to become a nuclear nation, and later Obama thrust the country into the status of H-bomb power. Experts and media from around the world argue that the US military attack against the DPRK is no more than a crazy attempt which will cause an irrevocable disaster. Actually, the DPRK is putting almost an unbearable pressure on the US by successful launches of a new type of ground-to-ground intermediate-range strategic ballistic rocket Hwasong 12, which can carry a large and heavy-duty nuclear warhead, and a similar rocket Pukguksong 2. In April last the Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee declared that the DPRK would not mind making any choice that it decides is needed to safeguard the peace of the Korean peninsula and the local region.

The Trump Administration is driving the US into the ruin with the hostile DPRK policy. Then, has Trump chosen a policy good for the US?

Kim Il Bong

Day Dream—Kiss of Death

LAST APRIL THE Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) announced that Japan's national debt amounted to 219 percent of its GDP last year. This is a record high among the OECD nations.

The economic situation of the victims of the devastating earthquake in Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan, in April last year has since been going from bad to worse. According to the press release from the prefectural authorities last April, 47 725 of the homeless were still living in makeshift shelters as of late March. This figure is 4 300 more than what was announced at the end of last year.

Japan is turning into a land of crimes with all sorts of criminal acts growing rampant. According to a report the number of criminal cases in the country last year totaled 996 204, of which 76.6 percent were major offenses, a 4.3 percent rise from that of the year 2015, while kidnapping and human traffic grew 18.8 percent and the fraudulent practices four percent respectively as against the previous year.

What is ridiculous is that the aged are leading criminals. In the first half of 2015 more than 23 600 cases of criminal offenses were committed by people of over 65. Most of the criminals were habitual offenders, and nearly 40 percent of those aged over 60 had more than six criminal records. The number of aged criminals is growing so large in the Japanese prisons that there is a strong need to set up separate prisons exclusively for the aged criminals. This is the reality of Japan at the moment.

Refusing to attend to this reality, however, the Japanese politicians are squandering a huge sum of money to attain their wild ambition. The Japanese House of Councilors passed the 2017 military budget worth 5 125.1 billion yen, which is a 1.4 percent increase from last year's total. If they spent that much money to improve the living conditions of the people, the international community would have little apprehension. The Japanese authorities take it more urgent to achieve their age-old ambition rather than to save the people from the deplorable living conditions.

For scores of years since its defeat in the Second World War Japan has worked hard to build up its force ascribing the lost war to its weak force. When the international community was apprehensive of its practice, Japan, on the pretext of the "threat" from the DPRK, has hastened legal amendment for realization of its ambition of overseas expansion and rearranged the Self-Defense Forces on an expansive basis so that they would be able to assume the task of foreign aggression.

Recently they kicked up a fuss about military rehearsal of the DPRK and tried to aggravate the situation in the Korean peninsula. This is another move aimed at availing themselves of the opportunity to attain their sinister scheme. Quite uneasy at the fact that the American military bases in Japan have undoubtedly fallen into the targetting range of the Korean People's Army, the Japanese authorities are hectic about introducing new military hardware on the pretext of dealing with the situation. The prime minster, foreign minister, defence minister and other high-ranking officials are talking about "a new stage of threat" and "greater importance of the countermeasure of the international community" while trying to accelerate the practical deployment of the MD system which can carry out interception at the maximum height of 1 500 km and hastening the consideration of introduction of THAAD. Meanwhile, in mid-March last an inhabitants' evacuation exercise took place in Akida Prefecture for the first time since the Second World War, imagining a "launch of a ballistic missile from the DPRK." Caught by the extreme sense of crisis that nobody knows "what could fly from Korea to Japan," the Japanese society is pervaded with the unreserved argument about the "need to expand the scope of military activity of the SDF," as well as the open assertion for revision of the Constitution.

But there is one thing the Japanese are heedless of: if they harbour too great a desire, they will lose discretion; if they go too far for their wild dream, they will end up in a bad fortune. Keeping in step with the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle 17 joint military exercises in the southern half of the Korean peninsula, which were the largest ever war drills against the DPRK, Japan launched a spy satellite aimed at the DPRK and conducted a joint marine rehearsal with the US military. This is a manifestation of Japan's intention to carry out reinvasion against the DPRK at any cost with the backing of the American imperialists.

But the more haste Japan makes for reinvasion, the greater threat it will incur from the DPRK. Japan is strongly advised to look after domestic affairs, instead of leaving a constant cause of calamity through reckless subservience to the US and anti-DPRK moves.

Kim Il Ryong

Five–storeyed Pagoda at Pulil Temple

THE FIVE-STOREYED pagoda at the Pulil Temple is a stone tower, located in Pangjik-dong, Kaesong City. Built during the time of Koryo dynasty (918–1392), it (without its head) is 7.94 metres high.

The pagoda is composed of the base, body and head. The original head was gone, so a new one was set up. The base has two storeys each of which is composed of a pad slab, a middle slab and a roofing slab. Each middle slab has four pillars engraved on its corners and centre.

The body has five storeys each of which is composed of a foundation stone, a body stone and a roofing stone. Over 20 big and small artistic towers, *sarira* caskets, Buddhist scriptures and patchwork cloth were found from the first and second storeys. The body stone of the first storey has a hole which is 17 cm in width and length and 18 cm in depth, and from this hole were discovered a three-storeyed gilt bronze pagoda, 12 miniature stone pagodas and three *sarira* caskets. The body stone of the second storey also has a hole which is 24 cm in width and length and 37 cm in depth, and from here were discovered a nine-storeyed gilt bronze pagoda and a five-storeyed gilt bronze pagoda and ten miniature stone pagodas. The nine-storeyed and three-storeyed gilt bronze pagodas with *sarira* in are composed of a base and a body which are detachable. The nine-storeyed gilt bronze pagoda produced paper bearing a mystic Buddhist formula, which was wrapped by white, yellow and brown pieces of cloth in order, a bluish green glass bottle and a Buddhist rosary. The paper is a Koryo make, which is durable with fine luster and never becomes fuzzy or wormy. The bottom of the roofing stone of each storey is a little protruded, while the upper surface is slightly curved to form rather a steep slope. The lower and upper lines of the eaves are curved up slightly towards both ends.

The five-storeyed pagoda was constructed depending on Koguryo's measurement. In the past the Japanese imperialists destroyed the upper part of the base in order to plunder the relics inside it. There are evident traces of their atrocities. The relics discovered in the pagoda are preserved in the Koryo Museum. The pagoda, belonging to the valuable cultural heritage of the nation, offers important information in studying the history and culture of Koryo.

Choe Sol Mi



